Kodansha Comics

プリズムタイム (2)

レイプ
誘惑のNIGHT
Space 女子校
LOVE!!
夢ノ恋いのり

武内直子

(講談社・漫画プロ)

プリズムタイム (2)

KC

武内直子

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Kodansha Comics

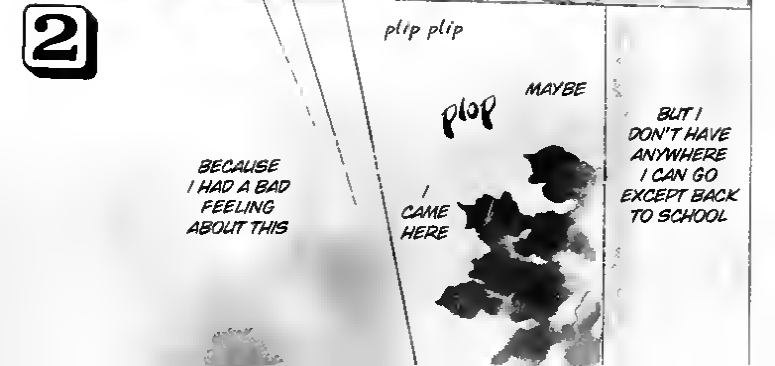
☆プリズムタイム――それは 恋する女の子たちの 熱くせつなく美しい 時間。
最新作 レイプ・ミステリー&ラブコメ一作、そして 5人の初期傑作集まで 盛りの 短編を集めた シリーズ第2弾登場です。

UGH, IT WAS NICE OUTSIDE JUST A MOMENT AGO, AND NOW IT'S RAINING!
plip plip
swoosh
rustle

Prism Time

plip plip
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK

2


plip plip
MAYBE
plop
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE I CAN GO EXCEPT BACK TO SCHOOL
I CAME HERE
BECAUSE I HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS

AH, A RAINBOW

Rain Kiss

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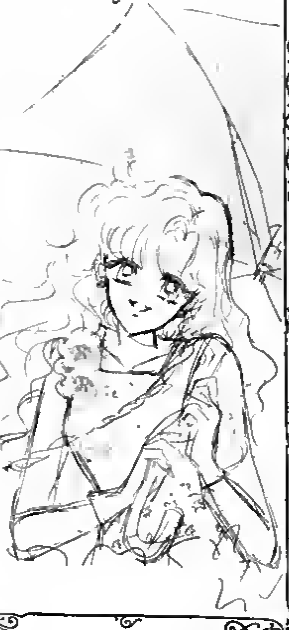
Hello there! Thank you for purchasing Prism Time volume 2! I put this compilation together to commemorate this year (1997) with many of the short stories that I loved. The first one is called 'Rain Kiss'. These stories are all very sentimental for me since I drew them while I was in middle school and high school (I debuted as a comic author in college). Now that my short stories are all finally in one compilation with the release of the 'Prism Time' volumes I myself finally have a collection of all my works! It's a little embarrassing for me to share these works but I'm really happy I can because my youth was a lot of fun!

Rain Kiss

It's been about six years since the last time I wrote a short story that wasn't related to Sailor Moon. This story was difficult to write, but that's probably because it's been so long since I did anything like this. I had an idea in my head of the kind of images I wanted to use, but I'm just terrible at coming up with good names. I've been visiting the lounge at the Shirogane Metropolis Hotel lately, and that's where I've been thinking up all the names from this book. I always come up with my character names in hotel lounges or coffee shops.

In January 1997 I was working on the 90 pages of this manuscript plus the final chapter of the Sailor Moon manga. I really wanted to put all of my energy into finishing Sailor Moon, and my boss Osabu was kind of worried for me. Sorry Osabu! I've wanted to draw this short story for a long time, and now that I have I feel a lot better. (Even though it turned out to be a totally different story from what I had originally intended to draw.)



Anyway about the stories. When I was a senior in high school I had a classmate named Tanaka who was going to go to Tokyo University. Seriously! My best friend, Yuyoi was the President of Tanaka's fan club, the 'Blue Genius Society' (abbreviated as the 'Blue Genba' — but I wasn't in it.) I don't know if he was as extreme as I portrayed in the manga, but Tanaka always was studying alone in the library.

In closing, I want to thank my editor Osabu for translating all the lyrics for me. Yuriko, thank you for the inspiration for page 39. And thank you for sharing the Boz Scaggs music with me. Dr. Oguchi! (This guy randomly started singing the words in my car one day!) He became a plastic surgeon! My classmate from junior high school who eventually got into Tokyo University, Kamiyama, thank you for being my model for the character Ujou. (And my model for a number of other shy male characters I've made.) You should become a teacher! (But don't get involved with the students!) And the one who I secretly kissed after graduated from high school, the one who drew me into the world of the student council, Matsunaga. Thank you for letting me use your name. Your image is the one I always immediately think of when I recall the Student council room.

OH, A RAINBOW!
AMAZING! IT WAS JUST RAINING AND THUNDERING OUTSIDE A SECOND AGO!
FEBRUARY
SHIGURE*, IT'S A RAINBOW
NOTE: THE NAME "SHIGURE" MEANS DRIZZLE

HOW DID HE KNOW MY NAME?
WHO IS THAT?
DRIZZLE RAINBOW?
OH, MAYBE MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THAT KIND OF RAINBOW IS CALLED?

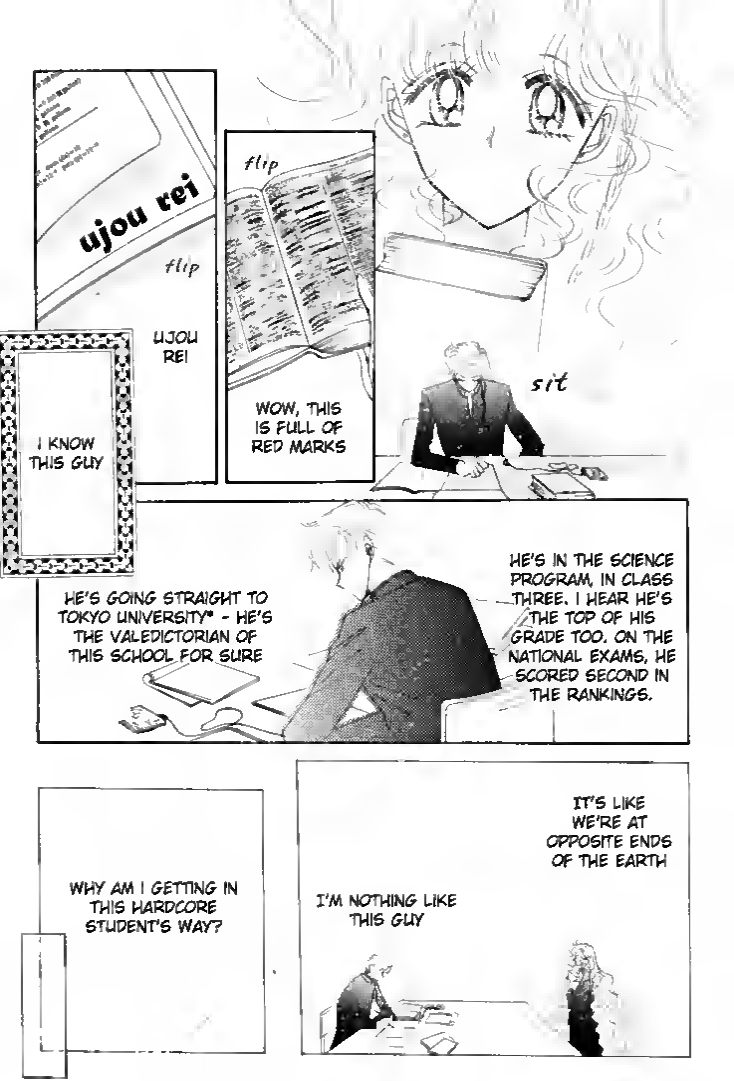
THE LIBRARY...EVEN THOUGH I'M ABOUT TO GRADUATE, I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BEFORE
speaking of which, I should check out a dictionary. I don't have one
THAT GUY IS LIKE A DICTIONARY
BUT IF I WANT TO GRADUATE, THEN I'VE GOT TO COME HERE
HEY LOOK OVER THERE
IT'S MINAZUKI SHIGURE. BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS! HER HAIR IS SO GORGEOUS. IT'S A REALLY BRIGHT BROWN, LIKE THE COLOR OF TEA!
WHHHAT
WHAT IS SHE DOING IN THE LIBRARY? DID SHE COME TO GET US ALL SOAKING WET WITH RAIN? tee hee
.....

THEY SAID I WAS LIVING ON THE WILD SIDE. THAT I WAS SELLING MYSELF ON THE STREET. THAT I WAS ACTING IMMORALLY
I DON'T REALLY LIKE SCHOOL, SO I DON'T COME ALL THE TIME
THEN I STARTED TO HEAR THAT THERE WERE A BUNCH OF RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT ME
PEOPLE OFTEN SAY I'M A LOT LIKE A YANKEE*
MY HAIR IS BEAUTIFUL, SO OF COURSE I WEAR IT DOWN
I'M JUST A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRL
WHERE THE HECK ARE THE DICTIONARIES IN HERE?
SCHOOL IS SCARY. I JUST DON'T LIKE SCHOOL, OR STUDYING
I didn't know the library was so big
RAINBOW GUY FROM BEFORE
THAT'S THE

*NOTE IN JAPANESE, BEING CALLED A YANKEE IS NOT A COMPLIMENT. THINK OF THE KIND OF AMERICANS WHO ARE ON JERRY SPRINGER - THOSE ARE "YANKEES"

HEY
TOP
WHERE ARE THE DICTIONARIES, ?
fwish
Gwaaa~
I CAN'T HANDLE THIS
UGH
THERE ARE SO MANY BOOKS HERE, IT'S MAKING ME DIZZY... HOW CAN YOU FIND ANYTHING IN THESE BOOKCASES?!

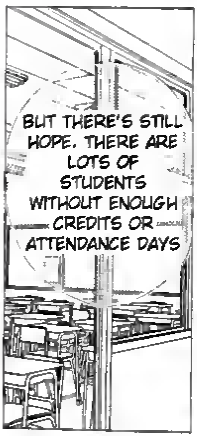
WHAT DICTIONARY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
NO, I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS AND GET A DICTIONARY
spin
THUD
BWAAA
ENGLISH SECTION
MISSING
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
JUST A REGULAR
fwish
PROGRESSIVE
English-Japanese
Dictionary
HERE, USE THIS FOR NOW

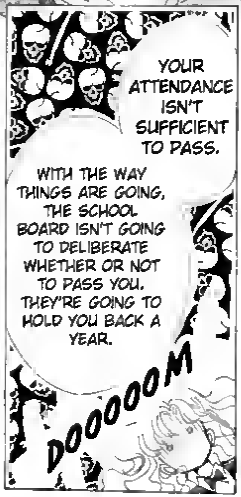

ujou rei
flip
UJOU REI
flip
WOW, THIS IS FULL OF RED MARKS
sit
I KNOW THIS GUY
HE'S GOING STRAIGHT TO TOKYO UNIVERSITY* - HE'S THE VALEDICTORIAN OF THIS SCHOOL FOR SURE
HE'S IN THE SCIENCE PROGRAM, IN CLASS THREE. I HEAR HE'S THE TOP OF HIS GRADE TOO. ON THE NATIONAL EXAMS, HE SCORED SECOND IN THE RANKINGS.
WHY AM I GETTING IN THIS HARDCORE STUDENT'S WAY?
I'M NOTHING LIKE THIS GUY
IT'S LIKE WE'RE AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE EARTH

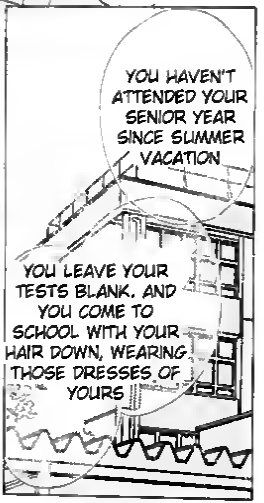
*TOKYO UNIVERSITY IS THE EQUIVALENT OF HARVARD OR YALE IN THE UNITED STATES

LAST MONTH WAS THE BIGGEST SCARE OF MY ENTIRE LIFE
SO YOU'RE SAYING I CAN'T GRADUATE?
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE END OF MY SCHOOL CAREER
January

ARE YOU SURPRISED ?


BUT THERE'S STILL HOPE. THERE ARE LOTS OF STUDENTS WITHOUT ENOUGH CREDITS OR ATTENDANCE DAYS


YOUR ATTENDANCE ISN'T SUFFICIENT TO PASS.
WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, THE SCHOOL BOARD ISN'T GOING TO DELIBERATE WHETHER OR NOT TO PASS YOU. THEY'RE GOING TO HOLD YOU BACK A YEAR.
DOOOOOM


YOU HAVEN'T ATTENDED YOUR SENIOR YEAR SINCE SUMMER VACATION
YOU LEAVE YOUR TESTS BLANK. AND YOU COME TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR HAIR DOWN, WEARING THOSE DRESSES OF YOURS

BUT YOU'LL NEED TO ALSO SCORE A 60 IN EACH SUBJECT ON THE FINAL EXAMS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. IF YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU'LL GRADUATE
CREDITS
BANG
BANG
EXAMS
50 POINTS
BANG
YOU HAVE TWO WEEKS OF EXTRA MAKE UP CLASSES YOU CAN USE TO TRY TO CATCH UP
IT'S JANUARY NOW, THE SCHOOL YEAR IS ALMOST OVER.

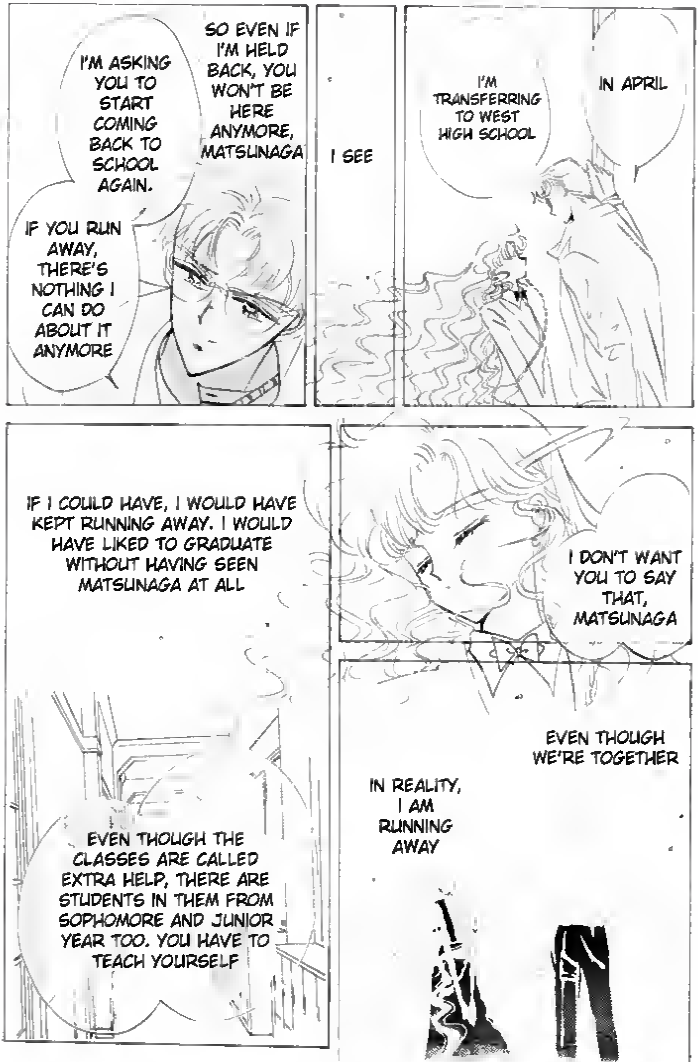
grab

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. I'M GOING HOME
sob
this is impossible

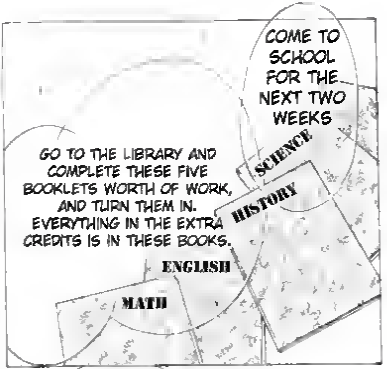
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

badum
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET LEFT BEHIND
SHIGURE

DON'T


I'M ASKING YOU TO START COMING BACK TO SCHOOL AGAIN.
IF YOU RUN AWAY, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT ANYMORE
SO EVEN IF I'M HELD BACK, YOU WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE, MATSUNAGA
I SEE
I'M TRANSFERRING TO WEST HIGH SCHOOL
IN APRIL
IF I COULD HAVE, I WOULD HAVE KEPT RUNNING AWAY. I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GRADUATE WITHOUT HAVING SEEN MATSUNAGA AT ALL
I DON'T WANT YOU TO SAY THAT, MATSUNAGA
EVEN THOUGH THE CLASSES ARE CALLED EXTRA HELP, THERE ARE STUDENTS IN THEM FROM SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR YEAR TOO. YOU HAVE TO TEACH YOURSELF
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TOGETHER
IN REALITY, I AM RUNNING AWAY

ENGLISH
I MADE THE ENGLISH ONE MYSELF AND IT'S REALLY EASY
THEY'RE EASY

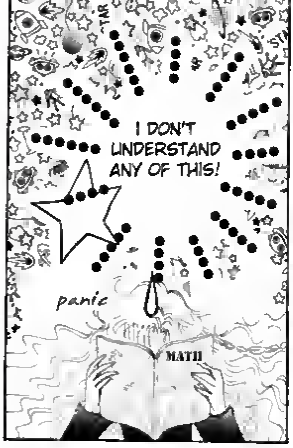

COME TO SCHOOL FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS
GO TO THE LIBRARY AND COMPLETE THESE FIVE BOOKLETS WORTH OF WORK, AND TURN THEM IN. EVERYTHING IN THE EXTRA CREDITS IS IN THESE BOOKS.
SCIENCE
HISTORY
ENGLISH
MATH

I THINK HE'S JUST LYING TO ME
SOMETHING GOOD

IF YOU KEEP YOUR END OF THE DEAL, SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN
poke
MAKE SURE YOU COME TO SCHOOL

stare
flip

WHAT GOOD COULD POSSIBLY COME FROM SCHOOL?


I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS!
panic
MATH

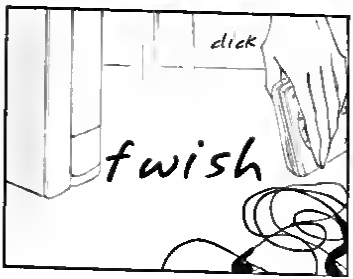
I'LL WORK ON MATH INSTEAD
close

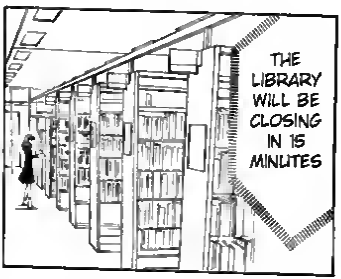
stare
ENGLISH
I'M SO EMBARRASSED. I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THESE WORDS. WHAT'S EASY ABOUT THIS? LEAVE IT TO NATSUNAGA TO SAY THIS IS EASY STUFF. ARE THESE REALLY ALL IN THE DICTIONARY?

AND I CAN'T EVEN DO ONE QUESTION FROM THE BOOKS. EVEN THOUGH I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM, IT'S LIKE HE CAN'T SEE ME AT ALL.

scribble scribble
HE'S SO FOCUSED

MATH
flip


click
twish


THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSING IN 15 MINUTES

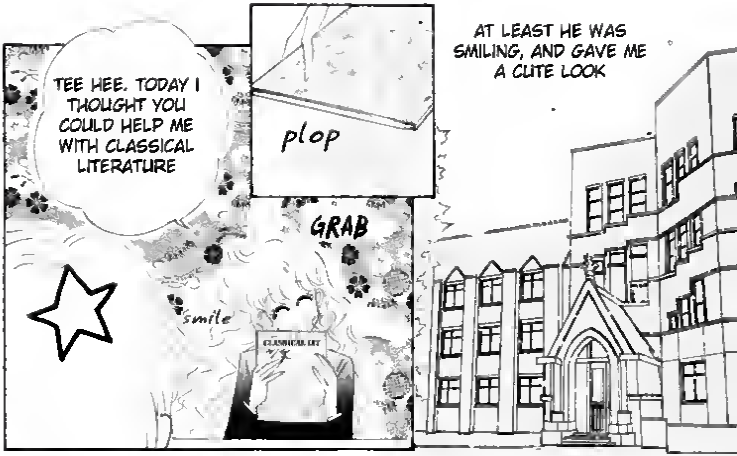
E-EXCUSE ME
COULD YOU SHOW ME HOW TO DO THESE PROBLEMS?
WHICH PROBLEMS
DO YOU NEED HELP WITH?
BLANK PAGE
ALL OF THEM
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
Wendy's

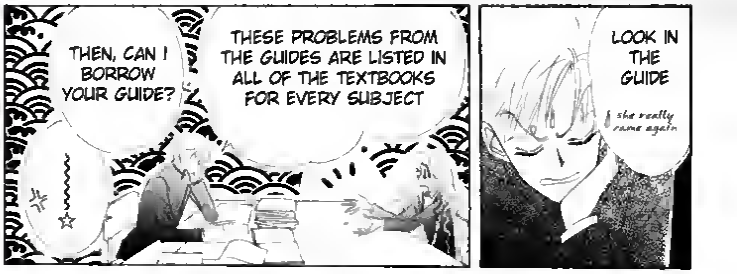
MOSTLY
YEAH, THANKS FOR HELPING ME OUT!
CAN I BORROW THIS TEXT BOOK?
UHH, YEAH, KINDA! TEE HEE
UMMM...ALL OF THEM
HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
IF I CAN'T GET A 60 ON MY FINALS FOR THESE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE
WELL, THEY'RE FOR MY EXTRA HELP CLASS, AND I HAVE TO DO THEM FOR ALL FIVE SUBJECTS
WHAT ARE THESE FOR?
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT
POW
YOU MUST BE KIND OF DUMB

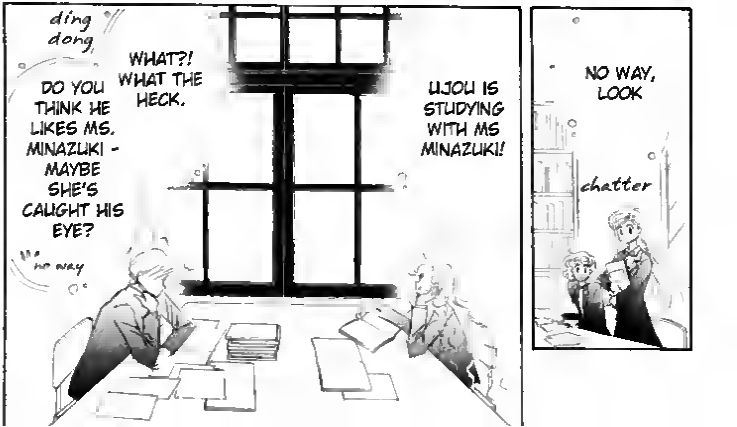
I'LL WATCH YOU DO IT, AND LEARN. THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO GRADUATE!
LUCKY! HE'LL DO THEM FOR ME! ♡
BUT YOU DON'T REALLY WANT ME TO DO IT ALL FOR YOU, DO YOU?
I CAN DO THESE. THEY'RE REALLY EASY.
HIS HAND MOVES LIKE A ROBOT, LIKE IT'S GOING BY ITSELF
HE MUST REALLY LOVE TO STUDY
THAT GUY
scribble scribble
scribble scribble
POUR
scribble scribble

*NOTE: BOZ SCAGGS WAS ORIGINALLY A VOCALIST FOR THE FAMOUS STEVE MILLER BAND, BUT HAD A SOLO CAREER IN THE 1970'S AND 1980'S

CAN WE MEET HERE AT THE LIBRARY AGAIN TOMORROW?
OH, HEY. I CAN PAY YOU. LIKE A SCHOOL FEE.
THANK
THANK YOU
I'M NOT A LIBRARIAN, I CAN'T DECIDE WHO CAN COME TO THE LIBRARY OR NOT
smile
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE TO LEARN FROM
T-THAT GUY!
I MEAN, CAN YOU MEET ME AT THE LIBRARY AGAIN TOMORROW TO TEACH ME - BUT ALL HE DID WAS SMILE AND GIVE ME THAT WEIRD LOOK
BUT


TEE HEE. TODAY I THOUGHT YOU COULD HELP ME WITH CLASSICAL LITERATURE
plop
GRAB
smile
CLASSICAL LIT
AT LEAST HE WAS SMILING, AND GAVE ME A CUTE LOOK


THEN, CAN I BORROW YOUR GUIDE?
THESE PROBLEMS FROM THE GUIDES ARE LISTED IN ALL OF THE TEXTBOOKS FOR EVERY SUBJECT
LOOK IN THE GUIDE
she really came again


ding dong
DO YOU THINK HE LIKES MS. MINAZUKI - MAYBE SHE'S CAUGHT HIS EYE?
WHAT?! WHAT THE HECK.
no way
UJOU IS STUDYING WITH MS MINAZUKI!
NO WAY, LOOK
chatter

BUT ISN'T UJOU PLANNING TO TAKE THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS SOON?
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S BOTHERING UJOU AT A CRITICAL TIME LIKE THIS
HEY
gasp
THE TRANSLATED BOOK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SHELF TO YOUR LEFT
OH
OKAY
I GET IT
HE'S HERE TO STUDY FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR TOKYO UNIVERSITY
HE'S GOING TO BE A SHINING STAR THERE, HE HAS A SHINING FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM THERE
I'M JUST BOTHERING HIM

plip plip
BYE
BYE
BYE
.....
THE LIBRARY IS ABOUT TO CLOSE
UJOU?!
YOU FORGOT THIS
gasp
plip plip

TO BE KIND TO A STUPID GIRL LIKE ME
smile
THANK YOU. YOU'RE REALLY NICE
ANCIENT LITERATURE
YOUR ANCIENT LITERATURE BOOK AND ITS TRANSLATION
plip plip
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST BOTHERING YOU
WHEN I WAS INSIDE
U-UJOU !!
YANK
YOU AREN'T BOTHERING ME. I'LL BE ABLE TO GRADUATE JUST FINE.
THUD
IT'S ALL RIGHT

I KNOW I'M A HARD CASE, BUT I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME ALL OF THE OTHER SUBJECTS TOO
♡
I don't understand any of this stuff
DON'T ABANDON ME!
GRAB
smile
smile smile
scribble scribble scribble
I HAVE TO FINISH MY NORMAL ROUTINE FOR THE DAY
RIGHT NOW I'M HEADED TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO DEPEND ON BUT YOU
BUT UJOU
GET THEM FROM YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU CAN DO THIS A LOT BETTER IF YOU HAVE NOTES TO STUDY FROM
HAS NO CLUE WHAT THIS IS
NOPE
♡
DO YOU HAVE ANY NOTES FROM CLASS?
THANKS UJOU
scribble
scribble scribble
blush
WHO TAKE NOTES
♡
MY FRIENDS AREN'T THE TYPE

I FEEL BAD BUT I CAN'T LEARN ANYTHING FROM HIM
MR MATSUNAGA IS MY TEACHER
WHO IS YOUR TEACHER? IF YOU ASK HIM, CAN'T HE GIVE YOU SOME NOTES FROM THE LECTURE?
ACK. NOW WHAT IS THIS EXERCISE? I LIKE THESE KIND OF PROBLEMS
MR. MATSUNAGA TEACHES ENGLISH RIGHT? THAT'S SO EASY. IT'S JUST TRANSLATION FROM JAPANESE.
NOT AGAIN. THEY'RE STARING AT ME.
OH NO
LOOK, IT'S THE GIRL WITH THE TEA COLORED HAIR! SHE'S HERE!
fwish
WHICH ONE?

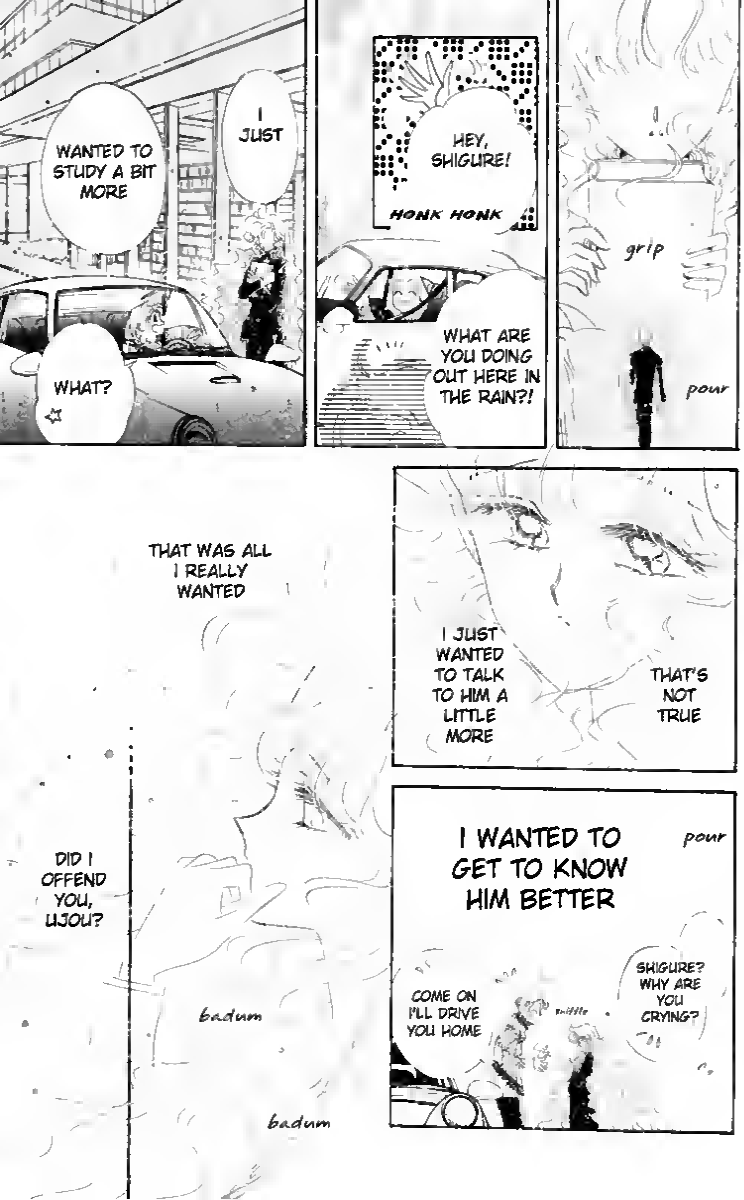
BUT I BET THEY'VE GOT OTHER REASONS TO STARE TOO
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL
NO ONE CAN TAKE THEIR EYES OFF OF IT
IS MY HAIR REALLY THAT UNUSUAL?
swish
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT ME, THEY'RE ALL LIES
BECAUSE I'M A YANKEE GIRL, RIGHT?
THEY SAY THAT I'M A PRIMISCIOUS WOMAN
THAT I'M A PROSTITUTE, AND THAT I'M LOOSE AND IMMORAL
sweatdrop
MAYBE THAT LAST ONE
MAYBE THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THAT WAS TRUE

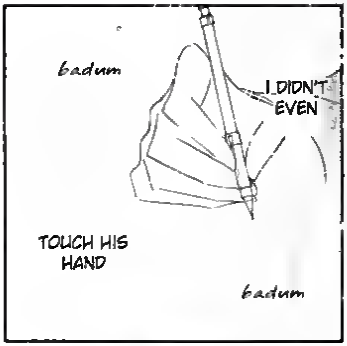
FOR SOMEONE AS STUPID AS YOU, THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IN LIFE IS BE A BRIDE
BUT I'LL SHOW YOU
THAT MEDDLER, MR. MATSUNAGA
OH LOOK, THE SCHOOL HATER HERSELF, MISS MINAZUKI SHIGURE, HAS FINALLY GRACED US WITH HER PRESENCE. THIS IS A SPECIAL EXTRA HELP CLASS JUST FOR YOU!
I WAS IMMORAL
I DON'T CARE IF I'M STUPID OR NOT
I'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO LIKES ME THE WAY I AM
YOU CAN'T BE THAT DUMB
ITS HARD TO LOOK AWAY FROM YOU
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU DO HAVE PRETTY HAIR SO THAT WILL HELP
MINAZUKI
KISS ♡

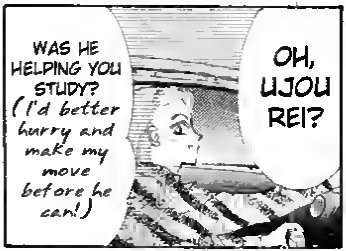
MR. MATSUNAGA DIDN'T ACT LIKE A REAL TEACHER AT ALL
WE CAN'T LET ANYONE FIND OUT
IT'LL BE OUR SECRET
SHHH
HMMPH
THAT MR. MATSUNAGA WAS WEARING A WEDDING RING
ON THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION I NOTICED FOR THE FIRST TIME
BUT
OUR SECRET CLASSES DURING SUMMER VACATION
WERE A LOT OF FUN
MR. MATSUNAGA USED TO PLAY IT IN HIS CAR ALL THE TIME
THE MUSIC YOU WERE LISTENING TO THE OTHER DAY, UJOU - BOZ SCAGGS
I FELT SO STUPID

THAT SLOW BALLAD
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE TITLE OF THAT SONG...WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN JAPANESE?
ALL I COULD DO WAS LAY IN MY ROOM AND LISTEN TO THAT SONG
SUMMER VACATION ENDED, AND AFTER THAT I NEVER WANTED TO SEE MR. MATSUNAGA AGAIN
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT CRY
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T GRADUATE
WHEN
FOR MR. MATSUNAGA ?
JUST A REPLACE-MENT
AM I

stand
I'VE GOT CRAM SCHOOL I HAVE TO GO TO
badum
WHAT?
dash
UJOU! YOUR DICTIONARY!
dash
OH!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
UJOU?!
pour
badum badum


I JUST WANTED TO STUDY A BIT MORE
WHAT?
HEY, SHIGURE!
HONK HONK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE RAIN?!
grip
pour
THAT'S NOT TRUE
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO HIM A LITTLE MORE
THAT WAS ALL I REALLY WANTED
DID I OFFEND YOU, UJOU?
badum
badum
I WANTED TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER
pour
COME ON I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME
SHIGURE? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
trickle





YOU KNOW, THAT GUY IS WELL-KNOWN FOR NOT LETTING ANYONE GET CLOSE TO HIM. HE ALWAYS GOES TO CRAM SCHOOL ALONE. HE'S REALLY WEIRD.

I FELL FOR HIM

badum

WHEN I WAS NEXT TO UJOU,

I COULD FEEL HIS PRESENCE, EVEN WITHOUT

badum

TOUCHING HIM

badum

HE MAY LOOK LIKE A NICE GUY, BUT HE WAS A REALLY CRAZY AND DEVOTED FAN CLUB OF GIRLS THAT WILL TEAR YOU APART. (EVEN IN THE FRESHMAN CLASSES)
splish splash
giggle
pour
BUT BE CAREFUL WITH HIM, SHIGURE
giggle
THAT I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF HIM AS A REPLACEMENT
TELL HIM THAT I'M SORRY FOR MAKING HIM MAD
badum
badum
AND THEN, I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HIM
FIRST I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM BACK HIS DICTIONARY
TO TALK TO YOU
WE WANT
NOT EVEN ONCE
pour
MS MINAZUKI

THE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR TOKYO UNIVERSITY IS IN TEN DAYS, SO THIS IS CRUNCH TIME FOR HIM. HE NEEDS TO BE STUDYING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
EVEN IF HIS TEACHER IS OKAY WITH IT, SHIGURE, WE WANT YOU TO LEAVE UJOU ALONE. YOU'RE JUST GETTING IN HIS WAY
IF YOU'RE THERE, MINAZUKI
giggle
YOU'RE JUST DISTRACTING TO EVERYONE
WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD STOP GOING TO THE LIBRARY TO DISTRACT HIM FOR A WHILE
grip
I UNDER-STAND
THAT DICTIONARY YOU'RE HOLDING IS UJOU'S, RIGHT? WE'LL RETURN IT TO HIM FOR YOU

I'LL GO NOW
BYE
IT'S MY RESPONSIBLITY TO RETURN THE DICTIONARY TO HIM
WELL, UM, I...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HER. SHE EVEN STOLE HIS DICTIONARY
HMPH
BANG
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
HUH....
THUD

pour
ALL OF THE
WORKBOOKS HE FILLED OUT
THE DICTIONARY !
pour
giggle
OH, POOR MS. MINAZUKI
giggle
BUT YOU CAN'T FEEL TOO BAD FOR HER. SHE DESERVES THIS
giggle
WELL THEN, YOU'D BETTER
HURRY ALONG AND BUY UJOU A NEW DICTIONARY TO REPLACE THE ONE YOU DESTROYED, SHOULDN'T YOU?
SWOON

AHHHHH
YOU MEANT TO TRIP ME
POW
SLAM
YOU MEANT TO GET ME SOAKED!
OWWW!
slap
hide
pour
THERE IS
AHH!

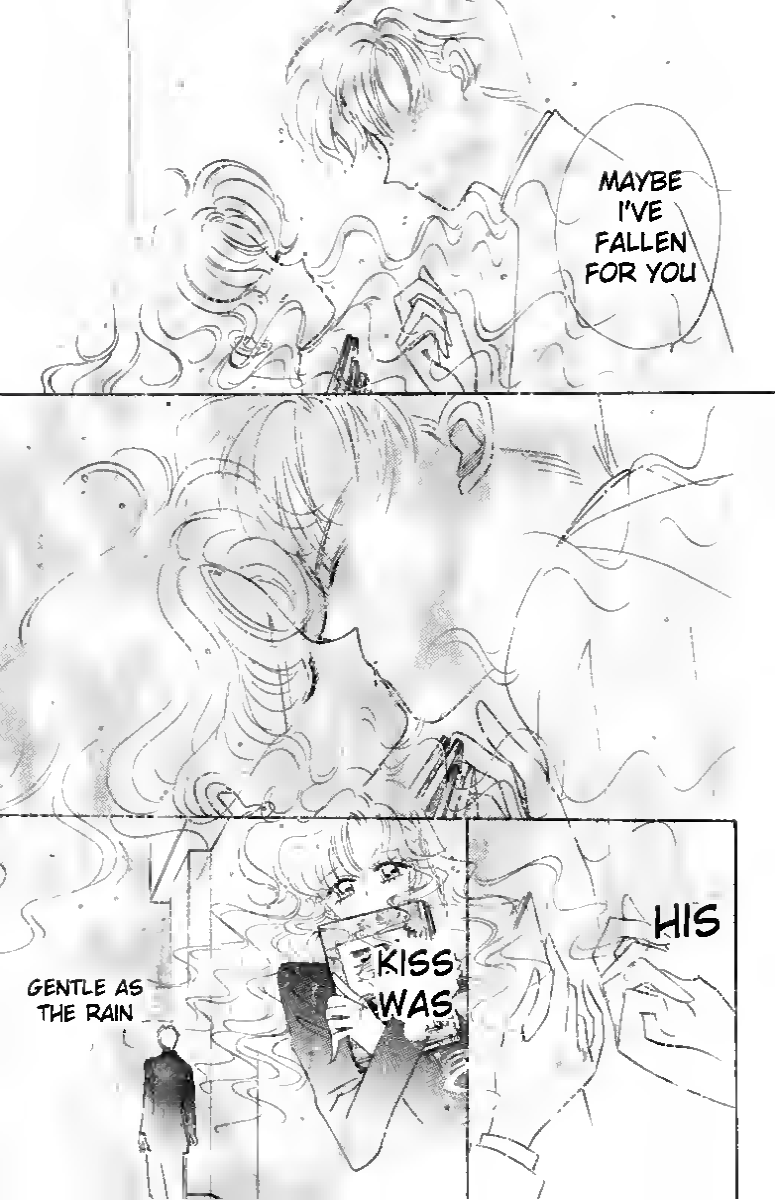
NOTHING I CAN DO
TO MAKE UP FOR WASTING UJOU'S TIME
SHUT UP! UJOU IS RIGHT THERE!
I HEARD THEY GOT HER WET
MS. MINAZUKI TOOK ON UJOU'S ENTIRE FAN CLUB?
whisper whisper
WHAT? A FIGHT? NO WAY
IT'S TRUE! I SAW HER CRYING IN THE BACKYARD

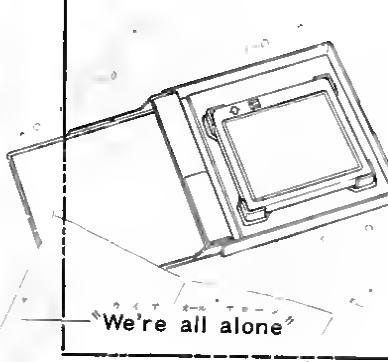
pour
pour
sniffle sniffle
I'M REALLY STUPID
twirl
BEING ALONE BY YOURSELF ?
DO YOU LIKE

I DROPPED YOUR DICTIONARY IN THE RAIN
I DROPPED IT AND NOW IT'S SOAKED
I HAVE THE MONEY TO REPLACE IT, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. I'LL BRING YOU A NEW ONE TOMORROW OKAY
I'M SORRY
YOU HAVE ALL THIS IMPORTANT STUFF GOING ON RIGHT NOW, AND I'M RUINING IT.
ALL OF THOSE WORKBOOKS YOU FILLED OUT FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ASKING A LOT OF YOU
WELL, I STUPIDLY DROPPED THOSE TOO AND NOW THEY'RE RUINED

ALL THE TIME YOU SPENT WITH ME UJOU, I WON'T LET IT GO TO WASTE
HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL
I
UJOU!
I NEVER ONCE
THOUGHT OF YOU AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MR. MATSUNAGA
NOT EVEN ONCE

A MINI DISC OF THAT SONG
IT'LL HELP YOU STUDY YOUR ENGLISH
THE LYRICS TO IT ARE INSIDE
MAYBE
I THINK I WAS JEALOUS OF MR. MATSUNAGA
I


MAYBE I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
HIS KISS WAS GENTLE AS THE RAIN



"We're all alone"

OUTSIDE THE RAIN BEGINS AND
IT MAY NEVER END
SO CRY NO MORE ON THE
SHORE A DREAM
WILL TAKE US OUT TO SEA
FOREVER MORE, FOREVER
MORE

WE'RE ALL
ALONE

CLOSE YOUR EYES AMIE AND
YOU CAN BE WITH ME
BENEATH THE WAVES
THROUGH THE CAVES OF OURS
LONG FORGOTTEN NOW

WE'RE ALL ALONE

WE'RE ALL ALONE

WE'RE ALL ALONE

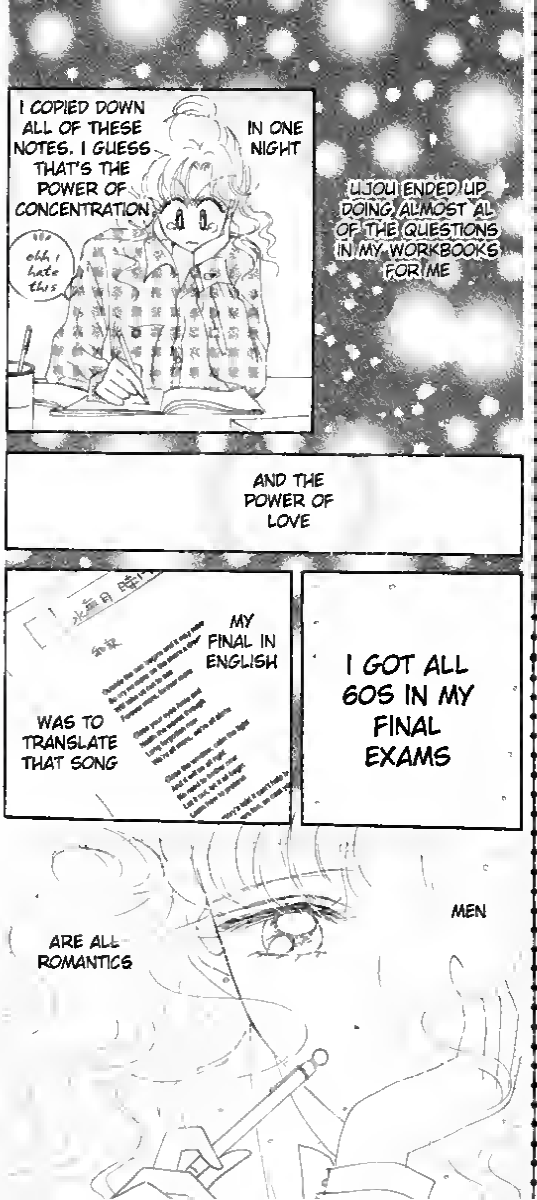
WE'RE ALL ALONE -BOZ SCAGGS-
©1976 BOZ SCAGGS MUSIC
Assigned for Japan to EMG Music Publishing Japan Inc.
JASRAC 9705573-701

SO THAT'S WHAT THE SONG MEANS

BUT NOW WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES

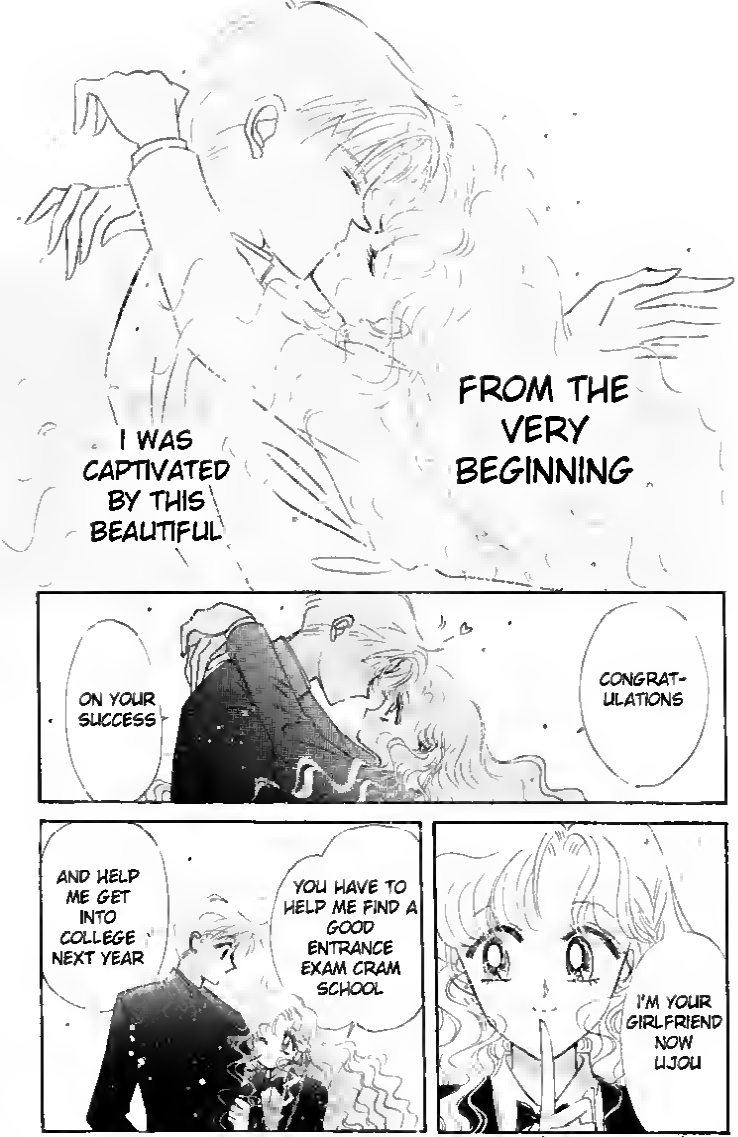
I CAN FEEL THE GENTLE RAIN OF UJOU'S KISS FALLING ON ME

CLOSE THE WINDOW,
CALM THE LIGHT
AND IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT
NO NEED TO BOTHER NOW
LET IT OUT, LET IT ALL BEGIN
LEARN HOW TO PRETEND


I COPIED DOWN ALL OF THESE NOTES. I GUESS THAT'S THE POWER OF CONCENTRATION
IN ONE NIGHT
Uhh, ohh, I hate this
UJOU ENDED UP DOING ALMOST AL OF THE QUESTIONS IN MY WORKBOOKS FOR ME
AND THE POWER OF LOVE
MY FINAL IN ENGLISH
WAS TO TRANSLATE THAT SONG
I GOT ALL 60S IN MY FINAL EXAMS
MEN
ARE ALL ROMANTICS
MY HEART IS POUNDING SO HARD. UJOU, IT REALLY WAS A HAPPY SONG AFTER ALL

march
CONGRATS
NOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GRADUATE
YOU DID IT
MY BOYFRIEND
THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO TELL ABOUT THIS. I'LL BE BACK LATER
WHO
SOMETHING GOOD WOULD HAPPEN
MR. MATSUNAGA, YOU WERE RIGHT. WHEN YOU SAID IF I CAME TO SCHOOL

TELL HIM I SAID HI
I SEE
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WHO IS THAT?
ME?
WELL
flutter
YOU SAID YOU HAD FALLEN FOR ME, AND THEN KISSED ME
YEAH
ACTUALLY, I THINK


I WAS CAPTIVATED BY THIS BEAUTIFUL
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
ON YOUR SUCCESS
CONGRAT-ULATIONS
AND HELP ME GET INTO COLLEGE NEXT YEAR
YOU HAVE TO HELP ME FIND A GOOD ENTRANCE EXAM CRAM SCHOOL
I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND NOW UJOU

originally published in "amie" march 1997

BUT BEFORE THAT
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH YOU TO CAL ME BY MY FIRST NAME, UJOU
TODAY WE'LL BEGIN OUR FIRST LESSON
★★ THE END ★★

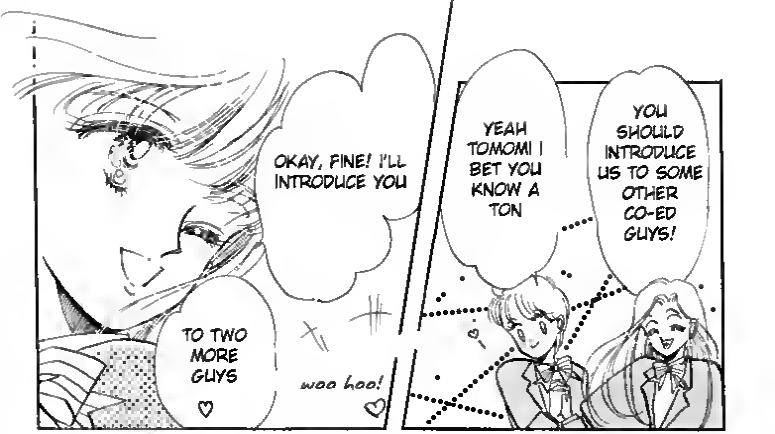
Dreaming Rainy Button

IT STARTED TO RAIN ON THE WAY TO MY MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY
BIG DROPS OF RAIN THAT SEEMED LARGE ENOUGH TO DISPEL THE FOG
I CAN'T SAY IT
I'M GOING TO STAY HERE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER
TOMOMI, WE'RE GOING TO GET SOAKED!
HEY
OKAY
GO AHEAD AND TELL MISONOU THAT YOU WANT HIS BUTTON
I'VE NEVER EVEN SPOKEN TO MISONOU

I'LL BE WATCHING HIM FROM AFAR TIL THE VERY END
COWARDLY TOMOMI
SOMEHOW
LET ME HAVE YOUR SECOND BUTTON
TO MO MI
TOMOMII

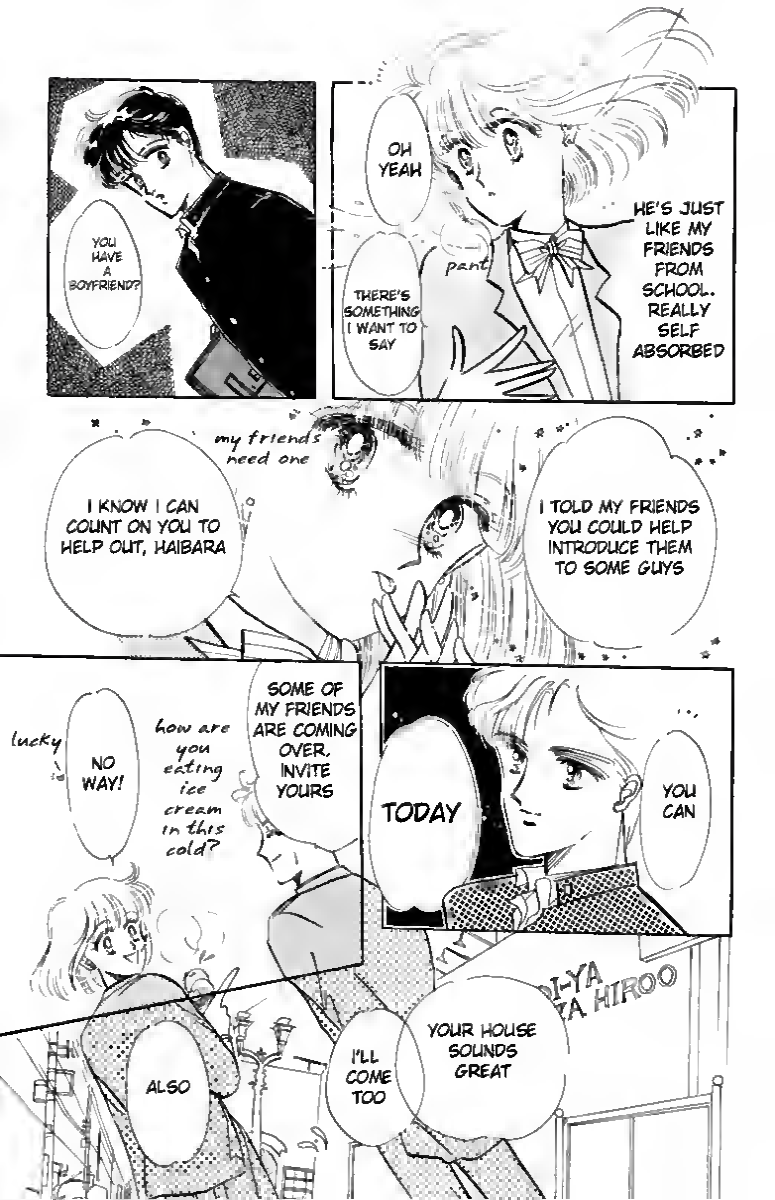
SEE YA?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
OH,
I'M GOING HOME
OKAY
SEE YA
LET'S GO HOME
splash
NOT REALLY
BYE BYE
HAIBARA?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

WOULD YOU PLEASE ACCEPT
MY SECOND BUTTON?
UM
NOW IT'S THE FIRST DAY
OF HIGH SCHOOL
I'VE CUT MY HAIR SINCE THEN
NOW THAT FINALS ARE OVER WE FINALLY HAVE SOME FREE TIME
TOMOMI, IT MUST BE NICE TO HAVE A DATE LIKE YOU DO
rub rub
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU ALWAYS WALK HOME WITH THAT ONE GUY, AFTER ALL


OKAY, FINE! I'LL INTRODUCE YOU
TO TWO MORE GUYS
♡
woo hoo!
YEAH TOMOMI I BET YOU KNOW A TON
YOU SHOULD INTRODUCE US TO SOME OTHER CO-ED GUYS!

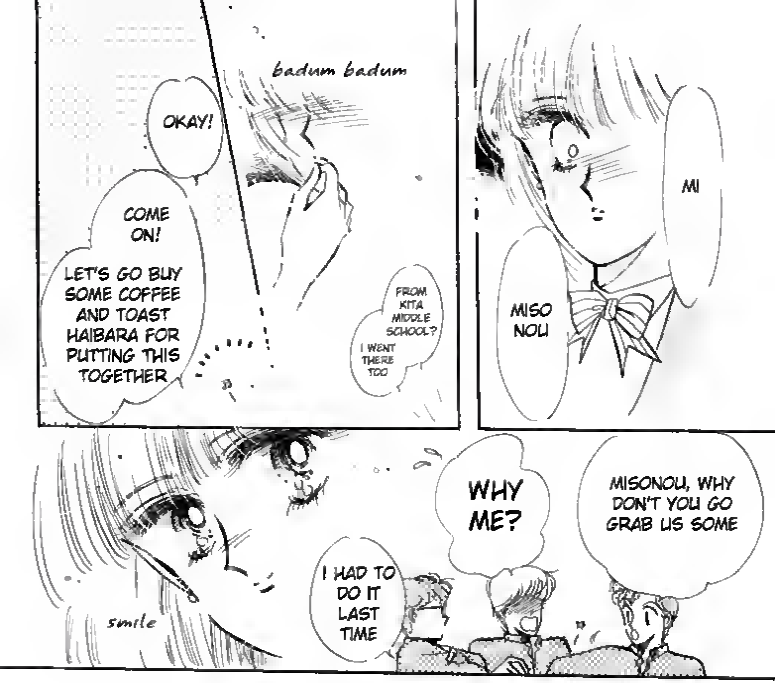
AFTER I CUT MY HAIR
I NOTICED
I STOPPED FEELING LONELY

HERE WE GO
IT'S USELESS. IT'S OKAY, I GET IT SOMETIMES YOU GET EMOTIONAL
I WASN'T CRYING
BUT HAIBARA, WHEN I TOOK YOUR SECOND BUTTON
I'VE SAID THIS MANY TIMES BEFORE
GRRRR. THEY WERE RAINDROPS, DON'T YOU GET IT
ah ha ha ha
SINCE THEN HAIBARA HAS BEEN HANGING AROUND ME A LOT
WHATEVER YOU SAY


YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
OH YEAH
pant
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY
HE'S JUST LIKE MY FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL. REALLY SELF ABSORBED
my friends need one
I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO HELP OUT, HAIBARA
I TOLD MY FRIENDS YOU COULD HELP INTRODUCE THEM TO SOME GUYS
lucky
NO WAY!
how are you eating ice cream in this cold?
SOME OF MY FRIENDS ARE COMING OVER. INVITE YOURS
TODAY
YOU CAN
ALSO
I'LL COME TOO
YOUR HOUSE SOUNDS GREAT

WHAT
ONE OF THE GUYS WENT TO KITA MIDDLE SCHOOL TOO. HIS NAME IS SHIBATA
badum
plip
RAIN
IT'S LIKE
MY HEART
IS CAUGHT IN A TIME SLIP

THE TEACHERS AREN'T HERE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS
AND THE JUNIORS AND SENIORS ARE STUDYING FOR EXAMS
HEY
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY?
YEAH IT'S FINE
MISONOU
thunder
THE GIRLS SCHOOL! THERE'S THE GIRL'S SCHOOL!
AND
MY NAME IS SHIBATA TOMOMI
AND YUKIMI
THIS IS ENKO
ANYWAY
THIS IS ARUGA
WELL
I'M ARUGA
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
HEY, HAIBARA

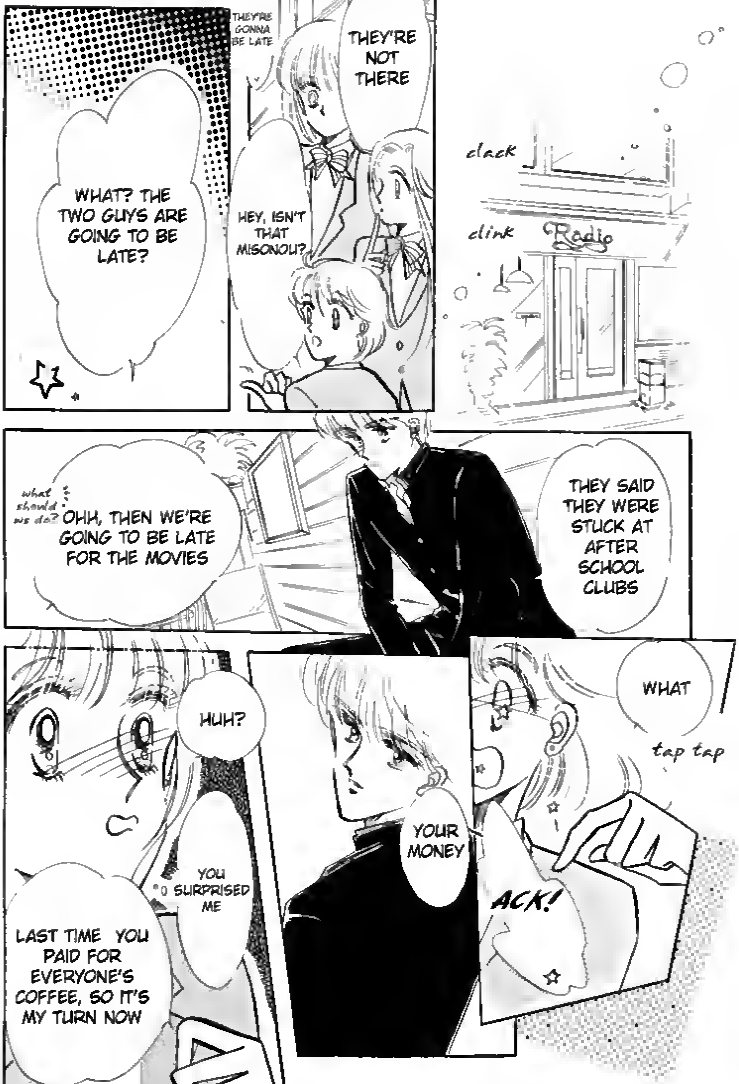


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT BEING ABLE TO MEET AGAIN LIKE THIS

blush
MI
OH, UM, I WAS JUST
YOU WERE SMILING JUST NOW
HUH?
KER-THWINK
WHAT?
NEITHER HAVE YOU SHIBATA
NOT ONE BIT
badum badum
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT
SONOU
BECAUSE
I'VE ONLY EVER BEEN WATCHING YOU
THIS WHOLE TIME, MISONOU
DO YOU KNOW WHY I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL?
blush
YOU STILL TURN BRIGHT RED
AND STAMMER
I DIDN'T KNOW I TURNED RED

FOR ALL OF
SENIOR YEAR
I ONLY CARED FOR YOU
WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THAT GIRL YOU GAVE
YOUR SECOND BUTTON TO?
YOUR HAIR
COME ON TOMOMI, HURRY AND THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY!
HUH?
MY HAIR?
WE'RE HAVING AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION NOW! ABOUT OUR SHADOWY PAST
AS THE GIRL YOU GAVE YOUR SECOND BUTTON TO LAST YEAR
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE STILL IN THE SAME GRADE NOW
WHAT? NO WAY!
SHADOWY PASTS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY ARE YOU UPSET? IT SOUNDS A LOT LIKE YOU, MISONOU
ACK

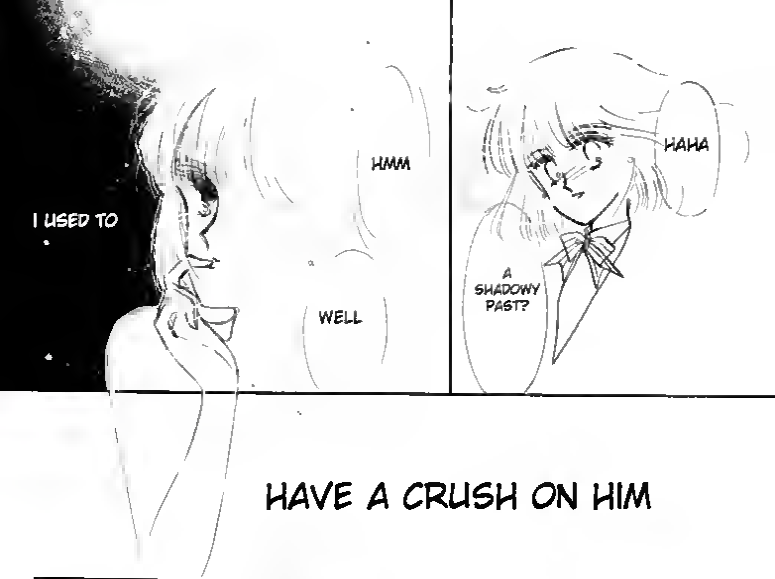
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
WHAT'S THIS?
THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU HAD TO BEG SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR SECOND BUTTON
WAS THAT TOMOMI?
ACK!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU
HAIBARA
YOU MEAN, YOU AND THAT GIRL ARE STILL
TALKING, MISONOU?
I'M NOT LIKE YOU AT LEAST
jeez
SINCE THEN
IT'S BEEN A YEAR
YOUR HAIR
I WONDER WHAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY NEXT


THEY'RE GONNA BE LATE
THEY'RE NOT THERE
HEY, ISN'T THAT MISONOU?
WHAT? THE TWO GUYS ARE GOING TO BE LATE?
clack
clink
Radio
THEY SAID THEY WERE STUCK AT AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
what should we do?
OHH, THEN WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR THE MOVIES
WHAT
tap tap
ACK!
YOUR MONEY
HUH?
YOU SURPRISED ME
LAST TIME YOU PAID FOR EVERYONE'S COFFEE, SO IT'S MY TURN NOW

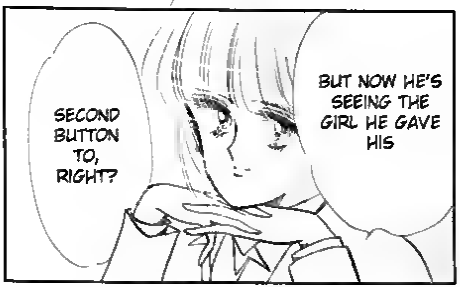
BEING ABLE TO SIT AND TALK TO HIM LIKE THIS COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN A DREAM
LAST YEAR
SO
HOW DOES HE ALWAYS MAKE ME FEEL SO BREATHLESS AND PUT ME ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT?
badum badum
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER
I COULD ONLY WATCH HIM FROM AFAR
jingle
POKE
POKE
jingle
GRAB
jingle
YOU SURE KEEP
YOUR MONEY IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT SPOTS

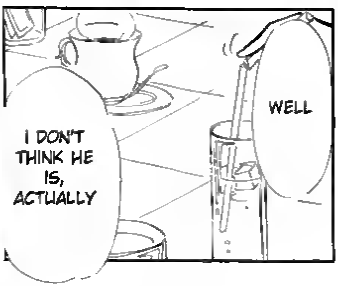
HE LOOKS LIKE A MAGICIAN
TEE HEE
YEAH... I WAS IN A HURRY THIS MORNING
jingle
YOU WERE STANDING IN THE RAIN, SHIBATA
AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY
LIKE YOU WERE WAITING

I GUESS HAIBATA
MADE THE FIRST MOVE AND SAVED YOU THE EFFORT
I'M GOING TO LOOK OUTSIDE FOR THE OTHERS
DID HE KNOW ABOUT WHAT I WAS DOING BACK THEN?
IS MISONOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE TOO?
HEY, WHERE DID MISONOU GO?
HE'S OUTSIDE WAITING
SMILE
TOMOMI
I GET THE FEELING
YOU'D RATHER BE WITH MISONOU THAN HAIBARA
YOU
GUYS WERE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER, RIGHT? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOUR SHADOWY PAST TOGETHER? (tee hee)



HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM

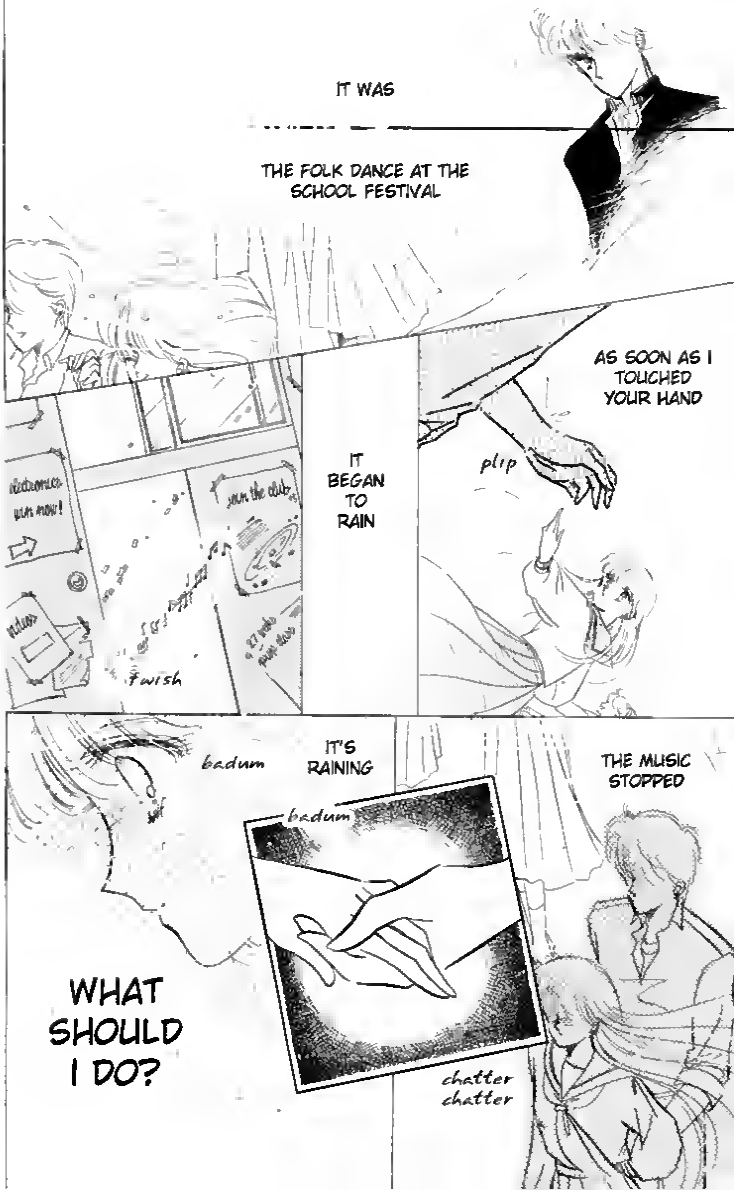




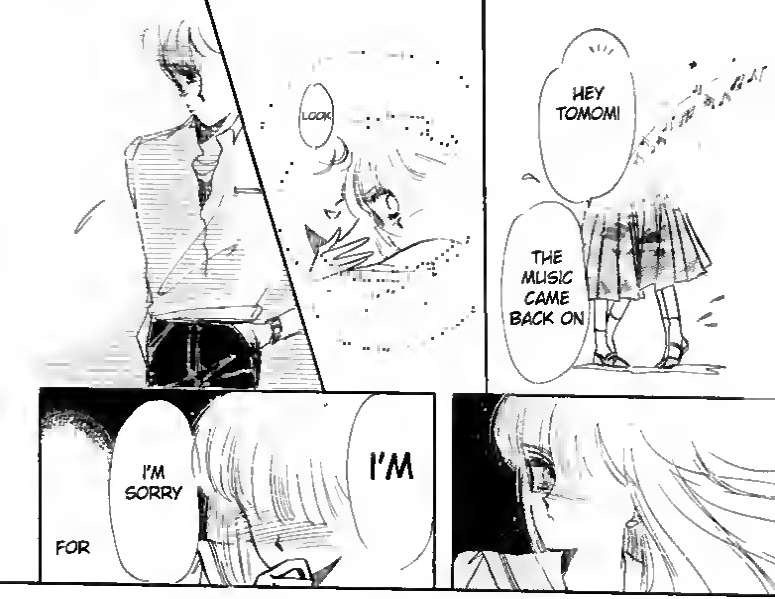
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED: NAKAYOSHI DELUXE, JANUARY 1987 ISSUE

HEY
WHAT ABOUT KITA MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WE COULD CHECK IN ON THEM, RIGHT?
IT'S FIVE WHERE SHOULD WE GO? (IT'S CLOUDY OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN)
WHAT IF THEY'RE LATE BECAUSE THEY ALREADY WENT HOME? WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
CHAIRARA ARUGA, WE'RE AT KITA MIDDLE SCHOOL. FROM TOMOMI, MISONOU, YUKIMI, AND ENKO
LET'S LEAVE A NOTE
grab
ENKO?
YUKIMI ?
SHHH!
OHH, WE'RE ALL ALONE NOW
giggle
THIS TO HAPPEN
I DIDN'T WANT
Urs does feel nostalgic though

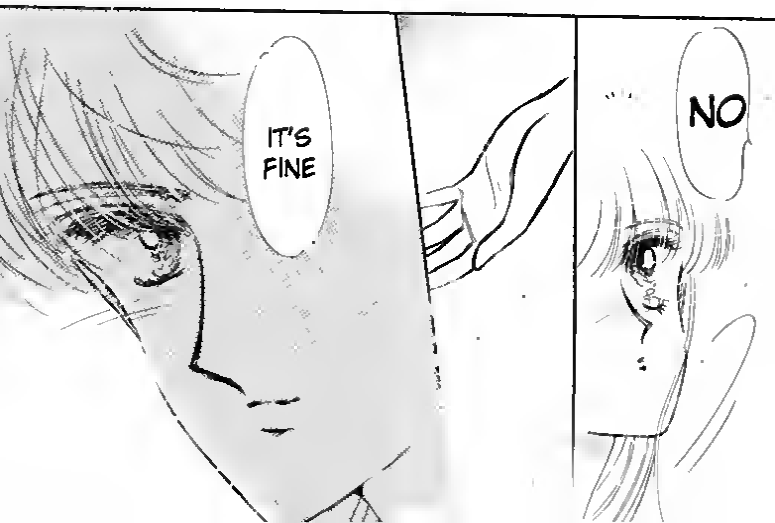
*NOTE: THE WORD USED HERE FOR "BOND" IS "EN" - WHICH IS USUALLY USED IN A ROMANTIC CONTEXT. THE CONCEPT OF "EN" IS A BUDDHIST BELIEF THAT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ARE FATED, AND ARE BONDED TO EACH OTHER THROUGHOUT THEIR REINARCARNTIONS

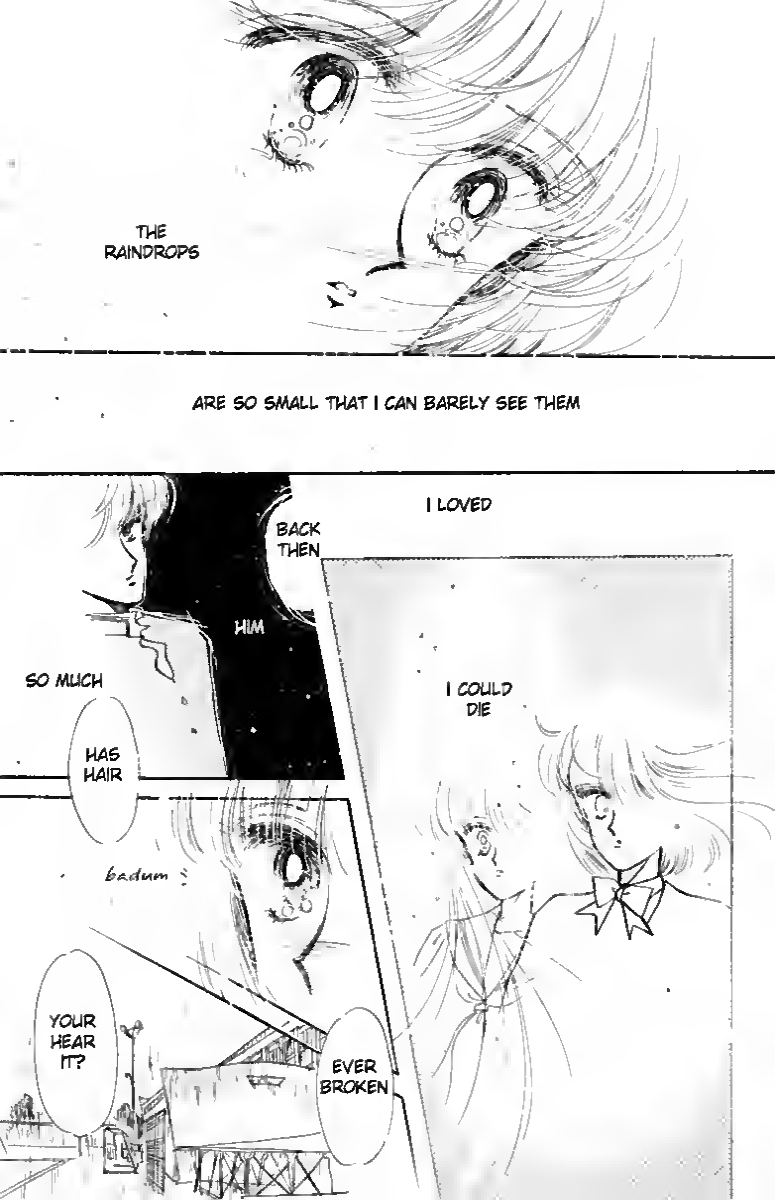

IT WAS
THE FOLK DANCE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
AS SOON AS I TOUCHED YOUR HAND
plip
IT BEGAN TO RAIN
twish
IT'S RAINING
badum
badum
THE MUSIC STOPPED
chatter chatter
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

badum
WHY IS HE HOLDING MY HAND
badum
badum
WHAT SHOULD I DO
twish
WE'RE GOING TO GET SOAKED!
COME ON, HURRY UP AND LET'S GO!
splash
grab
AAACK, TOMOMI ?!
IT WAS
BECAUSE I WAS SCARED
badum
badum



DROPPING YOUR HAND ALL OF A SUDDEN




THE RAINDROPS
ARE SO SMALL THAT I CAN BARELY SEE THEM
I LOVED
BACK THEN
HIM
SO MUCH
I COULD DIE
HAS HAIR
badum
YOUR HEAR IT?
EVER BROKEN

I GET THE IMPRESSION
badum badum
THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR HEART BROKEN BEFORE
IT WAS TOO LONG
I LIKED THIS GIRL A LOT
A LONG TIME
AGO
THERE WAS A GIRL WITH LONG HAIR
I WAS IN LOVE WITH

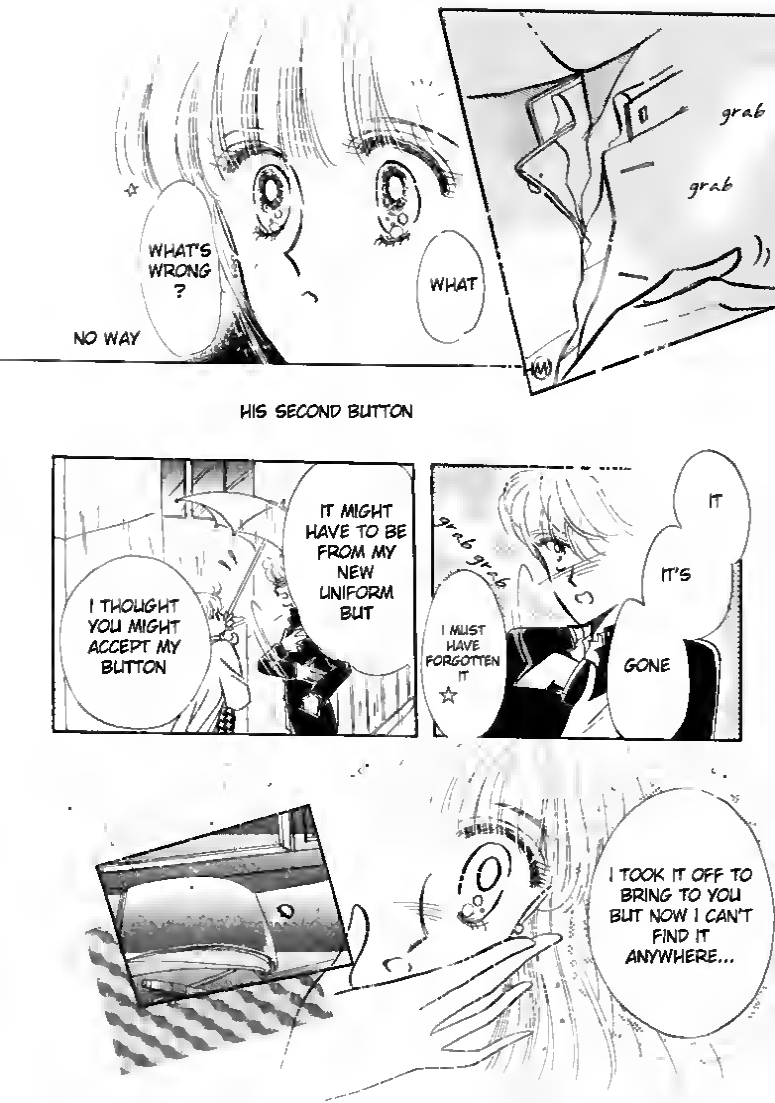
badum
AND WHERE IS SHE NOW?
NOW ?
pant
badum
NOW SHE'S
WELL I DON'T WANT
TO SEEM JEALOUS
OF HAIBARA
WAIT!

DON'T JUST LEAVE ME HANGING LIKE YOU DID LAST TIME
KEEP ON TALKING.
HEY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHY
WHY COULDN'T I FIND THE COURAGE TO TELL HIM HOW I FELT?
WHY COULDN'T I
TO MO MI
pour
turn

I KNOW
I MIGHT BE CONCEITED
BUT
HAS HAIR
I KNOW DEEP INSIDE
EVER BROKEN YOUR HEART?
AFTER LETTING PRECIOUS WORDS
SLIP INTO NOTHING
WE ALWAYS GIVE UP
THAT MISONOU AND I
ARE VERY SIMILAR

THAT REMINDS ME
I ASKED YOU IF YOU WOULD TAKE MY SECOND BUTTON
splash
SO TELL ME NOW TO MY FACE
YOU WON'T ACCEPT IT
pour
I DON'T MIND BEING REJECTED

IT'S
OKAY
I LOVE YOU
THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO TELL HIM .....
IT MIGHT SHOCK MISONOU
AND I'M GOING TO TELL HIM THAT I WANT :
ALL OF THE BUTTONS FROM HIS JUNIOR HIGH UNIFORM
MISONOU IS WEARING HIS SCHOOL UNIFORM?
BUT IT'S SUNDAY
twirl twirl
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE
plop
pant
plip


NO WAY
WHAT'S WRONG ?
WHAT
grab
grab
HIS SECOND BUTTON
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ACCEPT MY BUTTON
IT MIGHT HAVE TO BE FROM MY NEW UNIFORM BUT
grab grab
I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN IT
IT'S GONE
I TOOK IT OFF TO BRING TO YOU BUT NOW I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE...

THAT'S REALLY
smile
YOUR FIRST BUTTON THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
★★THE END★★

dreaming rainy button

Oh, this brings back memories. This story was the third one I wrote after my debut. Shibata Tomomi was a close friend of mine during middle school and high school which I wrote about a bit in volume 1. Eriko (I know it looks like Soroko in kanji.) and Yuumi (nicknamed Bulmi by the boys) were classmates of mine in middle school. Thanks to all of you for letting me use your names. Misonou was also a classmate of mine during middle school. He was tall and really good looking! But whenever I talked to him he would tell weird jokes and be totally deadpan about it. He was an interesting fellow. I thought he was really nice. Misonou, I wonder how you are doing now.

Giving your second button away was popular when I was in middle school and high school. I wonder if kids today still do that.

One of my strongest memories is of my middle school graduation. As you probably expect, it was pouring rain and I was really nervous, so I couldn't ask the boy I liked for his second button. Even after he went home, I stayed at the school drenched in my own emotions. He did give it to me later though. Later when I went to high school, I made the second button into a pendant (like a charm necklace) and wore it every day. I went to Kofu Ichi High School and he went to Nan High, so we were separated. When I graduated middle school to go to high school, it made me feel really lonely knowing that we would part. Ohh, all of this makes me so nostalgic about Kofu North junior high!

When I graduated from high school later, my guy gave me all of the buttons from his uniform! (There's no special meaning behind that; I just wanted them all.) Oh man. During our three years of high school, the two of us had quite the long-distance romance!

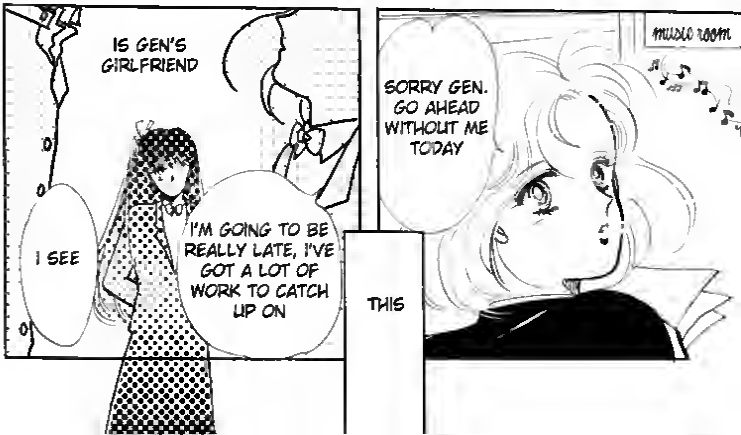
A Secret Unrequited ♥♥Love

GEN!
LET'S GO SEE AN R RATED MOVIE TODAY! ♡
R RATED: THIS MEANS THAT YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO SEE. IN OTHER WORDS A MOVIE OF DUBIOUS CHARACTER
EMI
ARE YOU SERIOUS
I'M FINALLY 18 YEARS OLD NOW! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SEE AN R RATED MOVIE FOR AGES. COME ON, LET'S GO, LET'S GO! ♡
YOU TWO
ISN'T CONSTANTLY HANGING AROUND EACH OTHER AT SCHOOL BAD ENOUGH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MINAGAWA!

IF YOU GUYS GO TO A NAUGHTY MOVIE TOGETHER LIKE A COUPLE
YOU'LL BE IN DANGER
IDIOT
I'LL GO WITH YOU
FINE, I'LL GO BY MYSELF THEN
heh heh
SHE'LL BE IN MORE DANGER
IF SHE GOES ALONE
MY NAME IS SAITOU EMI
student council

I'LL COME TOO!
I'M GOING TO KOYAMA'S HOUSE
YOU GOING HOME?
SEE YA LATER, MINAGAWA
HE SAID HE HAD SOME MANGA I COULD BORROW
THIS IS GEN
BUT HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND
RIGHT NOW HE'S THE PERSON I AM CLOSEST WITH

WE JUST HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP


IS GEN'S GIRLFRIEND
I SEE
I'M GOING TO BE REALLY LATE, I'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO CATCH UP ON
music room
SORRY GEN. GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME TODAY
THIS

AND THEY'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER
THOSE TWO GET ALONG REALLY WELL
SINCE YOU'RE BUSY, AI, WE'LL TAKE THIS TO THE BOOK LOCKER FOR YOU!
SEE YA
NATIONAL
NOT AT ALL. THEY'RE BOTH SCHOOL PRESIDENT TOGETHER, IT'S NATURAL THAT THEY'RE CLOSE
DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU?
AI, YOU'RE WORKING HARD TO GET INTO A MUSIC ACADEMY, RIGHT? THAT MUST BE HARD
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
YOU'RE SO COLD, GEN

DURING THE OFFICER SELECTION FOR STUDENT COUNCIL IN FRESHMAN YEAR

I FIRST MET GEN AND EMI

chatter chatter

chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
I COULDN'T STAND IT
WILL ANYONE BE RUNNING FOR ELECTION?
UGH
wow
ALTHOUGH THE APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS PASSED, WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL PRESIDENT
woah
fidget
fidget
YES! I'LL DO IT!
FINE! I'LL DO IT!
THEY JUST KEPT BLATHERING ON
YES!
HUH?!
AND SO
FOR THREE YEARS, THE STUDENT COUNCIL HAS HAD TWO PRESIDENTS, AND NO VICE PRESIDENT

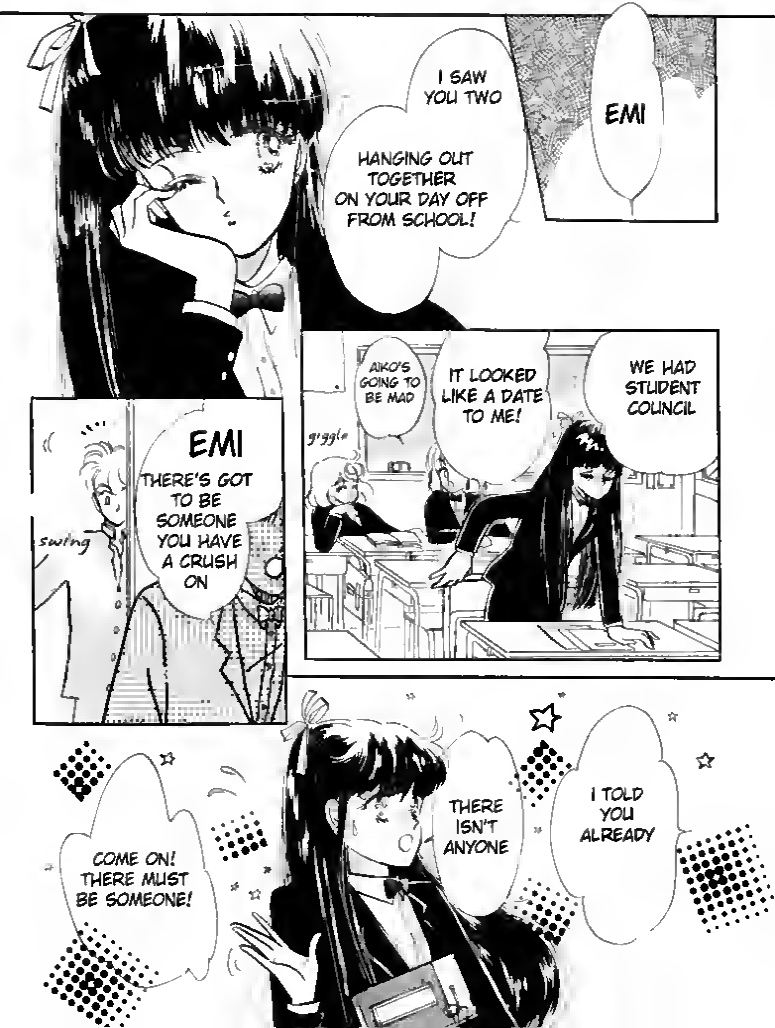
FOR ALWAYS BEING THE REPLACEMENT FOR WALKING HOME WITH AI
SORRY GEN
EMI, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
ICHIKO 3-2
SEE YOU LATER GUYS!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TO WALK HOME WITH?
SEE YOU!
WELL
I CAN'T TELL YOU
smile
IF YOU FIND SOMEONE YOU LIKE
YOU SHOULD TELL ME, AND I'LL TRY TO HOOK YOU UP

I CAN'T TELL HIM BECAUSE
BECAUSE THE PERSON I LIKE IS...
SEE YOU TOMORROW EMI
IT'LL BE SUNDAY BUT I'LL BE AT THE OFFICE
LATELY
I CAN'T SLEEP
IT'S STRANGE
THERE'S SO MUCH PAIN IN MY CHEST

BONK
EMI
TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT NOW
rub rub
I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT
TEE HEE ♡
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M SPECIAL
PRESIDENT, YOU ARE SO SOFT ON EMI
OH REALLY. SO THEN THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE YOU LIKE
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
ACK
OH REALLY? WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE TO AIKO THEN.
OF COURSE THERE IS! ☆
I HAVE MY SIGHTS SET HIGHER THAN THAT, YOU SEE

BYE
SERIOUSLY YOU GUYS. CLOSE UP WHEN YOU'RE DONE HERE. I'M GOING HOME
JUST KIDDING
REALLY, THERE IS?
THERE GOES GEN, LEAVING IN A WEIRD WAY AGAIN
OH
COME ON
EMI
heh heh ♡
SHALL WE GO SEE SOMETHING R RATED?
YIKES!
THAT MINAGAWA. HE DIDN'T SHOW UP AFTER ALL, EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE SCHOOL SECRETARY.
ANYWAY, I PROMISED I'D GO WITH YOU TO THE MOVIES

OH GEN
ARE YOU SURE?
WELL YOU SEE
YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO GO IF YOU HAD TO GO ALONE
IF YOU HAVE FREE TIME, WHY DON'T YOU GO ON A DATE WITH AI?
SHE'S AT HER VOCAL LESSONS ON SUNDAYS
REALLY ?
GEN YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD GUY
WELL, UNTIL YOU GET A BOYFRIEND, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE DO WITH ME?
IT WOULD BE NICE TO STAY LIKE THIS FOR A WHILE.


EMI
I SAW YOU TWO HANGING OUT TOGETHER ON YOUR DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL!
WE HAD STUDENT COUNCIL
IT LOOKED LIKE A DATE TO ME!
AIKO'S GOING TO BE MAD
giggle
EMI
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON
swing
I TOLD YOU ALREADY
THERE ISN'T ANYONE
COME ON! THERE MUST BE SOMEONE!

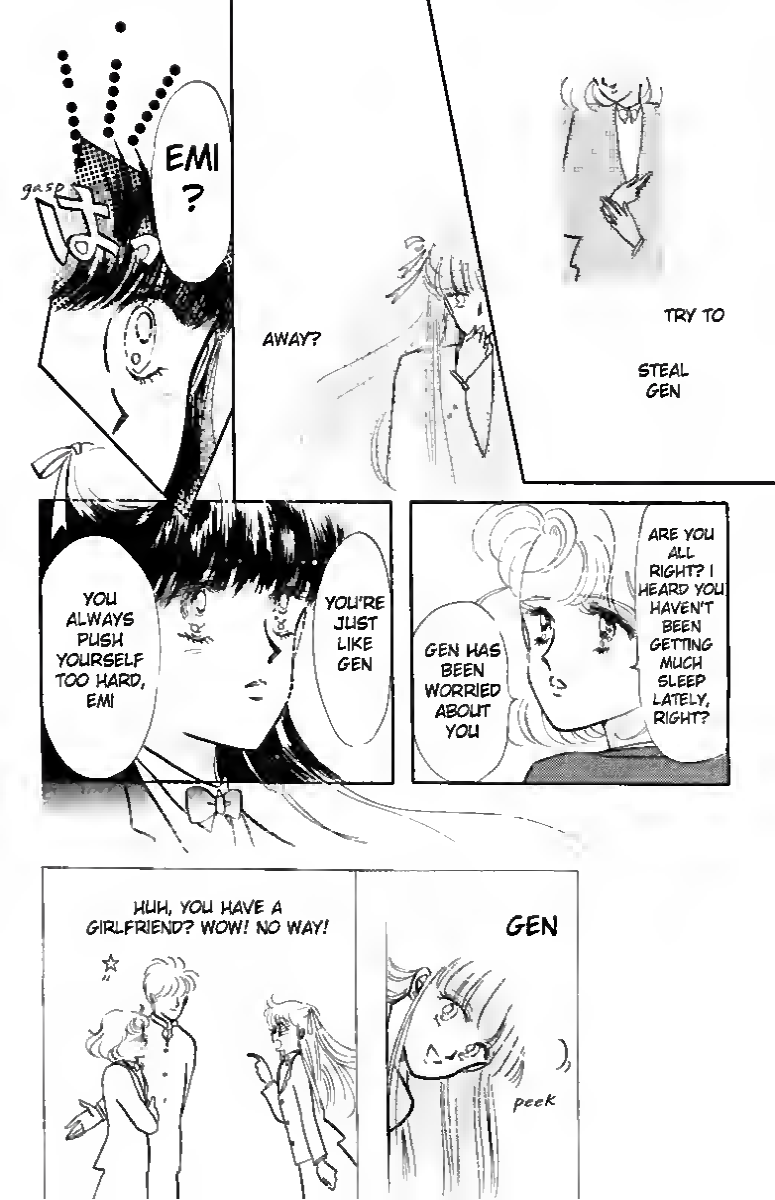
I WANT TO KNOW WHO EMI LIKES
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NO USE. SHE HASN'T EVEN TOLD ME
GEN, THE COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
I'M GOING TO THE OFFICE
OKAY
girls, jeez
EMI
SURPRISING THAT EVEN YOU'RE LEFT OUT OF IT, GEN
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
GEN!
clatter
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO SERIOUS?

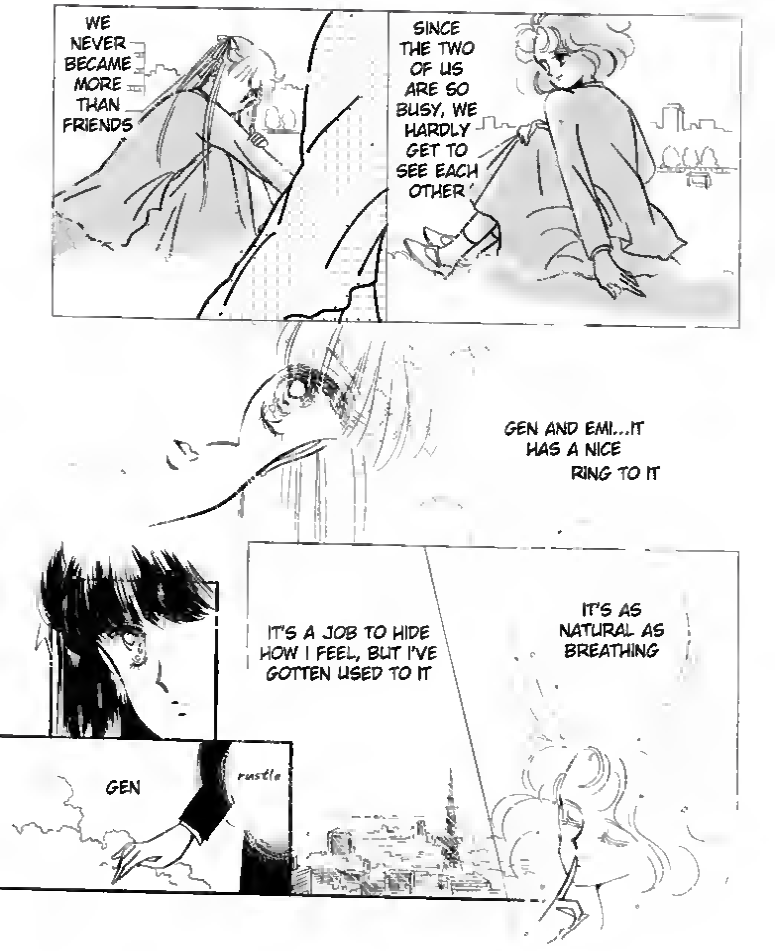
YOU'RE UPSET
I'M NOT UPSET
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU
ACK
GEN
.....
OH GEN!
chatter chatter
chatter

KNEW THAT
I COULDN'T
ALWAYS
BE WITH GEN
AND THEN I
creak
silence
I WONDER IF SHE WAS WATCHING US
I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING
WHERE'S GEN?
WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND
JEALOUS?
HMPH

YOU GET TO SPEND WAY MORE TIME WITH GEN THAN HIS OWN GIRLFRIEND DOES
BUT YOU ARE AREN'T YOU?
WHY WOULD I BE JEALOUS?
grab
CAN HE SEE THROUGH ME?
swing
pull
HEY!
run
LET GO OF ME!
tap tap

JEALOUS
I AM WITH GEN MORE THAN HIS GIRLFRIEND
I SHOULDN'T BE
I SPEND ALMOST ALL OF MY TIME WITH GEN
BUT I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE
WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP
I'M SATISFIED
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT SCORE IS AMAZING!
I HATE THAT I ALWAYS HAVE SO MUCH WORK
TO DO EVERY DAY
SHOULD I


gasp
EMI ?
AWAY?
TRY TO STEAL GEN
YOU'RE JUST LIKE GEN
YOU ALWAYS PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, EMI
GEN HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I HEARD YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING MUCH SLEEP LATELY, RIGHT?
HUH, YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND? WOW! NO WAY!
GEN
peek


WE NEVER BECAME MORE THAN FRIENDS
SINCE THE TWO OF US ARE SO BUSY, WE HARDLY GET TO SEE EACH OTHER
GEN AND EMI...IT HAS A NICE RING TO IT
IT'S A JOB TO HIDE HOW I FEEL, BUT I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT
IT'S AS NATURAL AS BREATHING
GEN
rustle

WHAT AM I TO YOU?

JUST A FRIEND...
ISN'T THAT LONELY?
WE'RE NOT LOVERS EITHER
IT'S NOT NATURAL
IT'S A WEIRD RELATIONSHIP
I KNOW
I GUESS DO WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOU BUT

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE
I'M ALWAYS HANGING AROUND YOU, THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND
OR SOMETHING
GEN! JUST HURRY UP AND STAMP THAT BUDGET DRAFT!
IS THERE SERIOUSLY NO ONE YOU LIKE?
TEE HEE ♡
EMI
WHY DON'T I INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE
IF I DON'T, I'LL ALWAYS BE UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF THE POSITION I'VE PUT YOU IN
badum

THEY SAY ALL KINDS OF THINGS ABOUT YOU
BECAUSE OF ME. I FEEL BAD
badum
GEN
DON'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE
OF COURSE
stamp
BUT HE HAS TO BE A CUTE GUY
MY CHEST
badum
SURE
ALREADY HURTS SO MUCH
AND NOW
badum
ONCE AGAIN I CAN'T SLEEP

I'M GOING TO
GIVE YOU A PROPER INTRODUCTION
IF BOTH PRESIDENTS DITCH THE MEETING, THEN...
YOU CAN'T LET THE JOB TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE
WE'LL GO TOGETHER ?
OH GEN
I CAN'T STAND THIS
OKAY
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY GIRL
THEN LET'S TAKE AI ALONG WITH US TOO
chatter
Teatroom open 9am~11pm
chatter

OHHHH
GEN, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME WE WERE MEETING MINAGAWA
HE'S A CUTE GUY, RIGHT?
CLINK
I KNOW BUT
sigh
SO I WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU, EMI
HE'S A GOOD GUY

HE SET IT UP BECAUSE I LIKE YOU
MS SAITOU
HE'S ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS
YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL THIS AN INTRODUCTION
I SERIOUSLY JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN
badum
WHAT?
YOU WOULD NOT HAVE INTRO-DUCED US
I THINK IF I HAD TOLD YOU, GEN
WHAT?
THAT'S THE FIRST I'M HEARING OF THIS

badum
badum
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD INTRODUCE US
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME
WHA-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
badum

EMI...
turn
I SHOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE
BECAUSE
THE PERSON
I LIKE
IS
I
I MADE THE INTRODUCTION
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
YOU'RE LEAVING ?
I'M GOING
smile

GEN SURE DOES HAVE A
THICK SKIN
!
THIS IS MY
RESPON-SIBILITY
WASN'T THAT AWKWARD? LEAVING AIKO BEHIND LIKE THAT?

plip
BUT ISN'T IT REALLY JUST YOUR KINDNESS TALKING, GEN?
YOUR FAULT ?
TEE HEE
I WON'T
DO ANYMORE INTRODUCTIONS
hug
I'M SORRY
badum
I SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE IT
CAN I ASK YOU FOR SOMETHING THAT'S SELFISH?
JUST ONCE
badum
badum
GEN

HOLD ME LIKE THIS
I'M ALWAYS LISTENING
FOR JUST A MINUTE LONGER
JUST ONE MINUTE ?
HOW ABOUT AN HOUR
AN HOUR? giggle
ALL NIGHT
badum
twish

YOU
CAN'T BE UNFAITHFUL LIKE THAT
GEN
SEE YOU
TOMORROW
GEN
I CAN'T SLEEP
I HAVE NIGHTS I CAN'T SLEEP
chatter chatter
EITHER, EMI
i am sorry

BEFORE YOU GO TO CLASS
WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO THE OFFICE?
chatter
GOOD MORNING EMI!
chatter
crumple
GOOD MORNING, AI!
toss
SURE
chatter
chatter
yawn
HEY
school
twirl

★★THE END★★

A Secret Unrequited Love

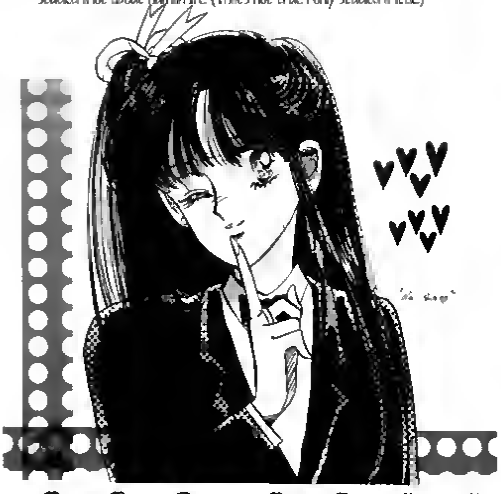
This was my first work that I released after my initial debut. And it's the first story I set in my beloved Ura-Matsu Kofu Ichi High School. I loved the girls uniforms there. (They were popular all over the city). Back then my editor used to let me release my work without making any changes at all. I was so grateful for that. It seemed like there were a lot of changes he wanted to make, especially about the ending. But after all this time, I'm glad I was able to do it my own way. I like the story how it ended.

Looking back at my older works like this one, it seems I had a lot more freedom to write and draw stories however I pleased. Both in terms of dialogue and the artwork and panel positions. But I was so inexperienced that I can see the flaws now. It's so hard for me to go back and read now!

Ai and Emi were both friends of mine in college. I'm glad they have made it to comic form at long last!

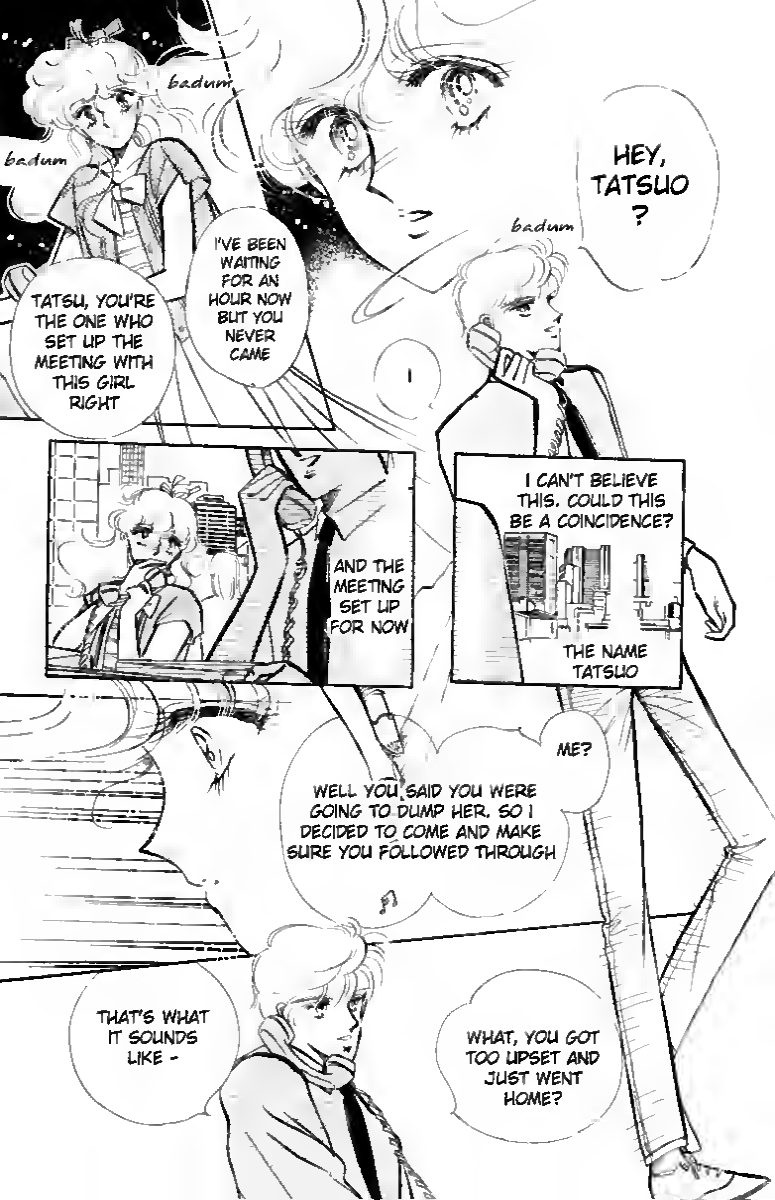
I really wanted to release this work at the time I was writing. But in college I hardly wrote any comics. I spent all of my time taking breaks from lecture and study and just lied about. (Actually, I'm like that now about Sailor Moon too. I'm sorry!) I wish I had skipped over the crazy party college girl lifestyle and spent more time seriously practicing my work on comics. (I could have done so much more when I was young!) It's a regret of mine.

But the dorm girl lifestyle was so much fun. It was to die for. I was in college in the late 1980s and I studied a lot about human life. (That's not true. I only studied a little.)



ラブ
LOVE
コール
CALL

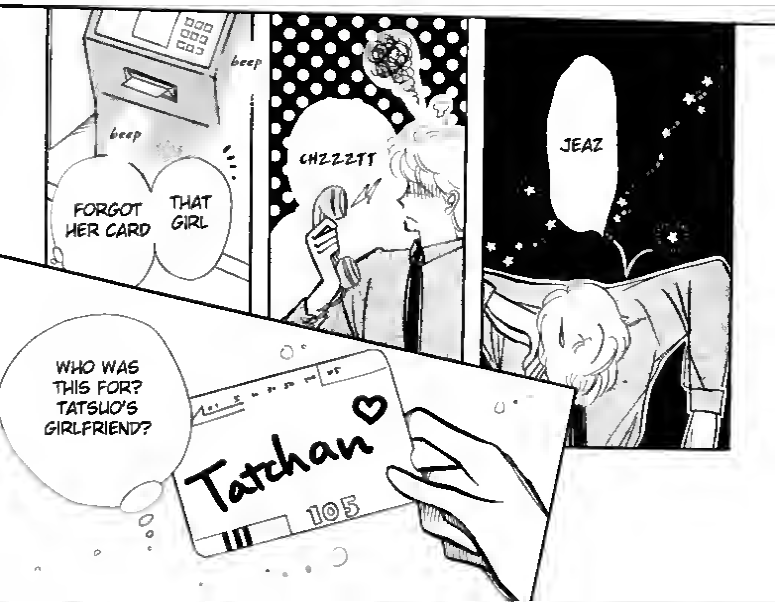
HE
HASN'T COME. I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN HOUR ALREADY
riiing
THE LINE'S BUSY?
fwish
IF HE'S STILL AT HOME, WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO HIM...
bump
MAYBE I'LL TRY TO CALL HIM


badum
badum
TATSU, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SET UP THE MEETING WITH THIS GIRL RIGHT
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN HOUR NOW BUT YOU NEVER CAME
HEY, TATSUO ?
badum
AND THE MEETING SET UP FOR NOW
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. COULD THIS BE A COINCIDENCE?
THE NAME TATSUO
ME?
WELL YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO DUMP HER, SO I DECIDED TO COME AND MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOWED THROUGH
THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE -
WHAT, YOU GOT TOO UPSET AND JUST WENT HOME?

I THI-
chatter
TACCHAN ?
chatter
clink
click
HELLO?
OH
GRAB
plip plip

SLAP
ASS-HOLE!
I'VE

BEEN DUMPED!


beep
beep
FORGOT HER CARD
THAT GIRL
CHZZZTT
JEAZ
WHO WAS THIS FOR? TATSUO'S GIRLFRIEND?
Tatchan♡
105

sob
sob
sob
YOU GOT DUMPED?
WAS SHE ONE OF TATSUO'S GIRLFRIENDS ?
I SEE...SO YOU REALLY WERE DUMPED
sniffle
SHE'S ALREADY CRYING!
OH COME ON YURIE
HUH? WHAT?
YEAH
DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING DUMPED BY SUCH A JERK OF A GUY!
TO BE HONEST I'VE SEEN TATSUO OUT WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER GIRLS
I LOVED HIM
DESPITE EVERYTHING
YOU'RE RIGHT

NAKA-MURA YURIE
TACCHAN
WHO IS THIS GUY
SLAP
ACK
smile♡
I CAME TO GET EVEN WITH YOU

twish
AAACK! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING
THUD
CRASH
DROP
dash
HEY
flip
Tatchan
I want to see you
TACCHAN?
WHAAA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU FORGOT THIS
I'M KIDDING
Tatchan

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S ADDRESSED TO THIS GUY
WHO
JUST BROKE UP WITH ME
I DON'T
hmph
NEED THAT ANYMORE
TATSUO, WHY DID YOU DUMP THIS GIRL?
I'M SEEING THIS OTHER GIRL NOW, SHE'S A COLLEGE STUDENT LIKE ME
WELL, THE THING IS
glare
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT MY NAME
OR EVEN FIND OUT THAT I WOULD BE HERE?
TATSUO TOLD ME
HE SAID THAT YOU, MISS YURIE,
USUALLY SPENDS HER TIME IN THE LIBRARY IN HIROO, WRITING LOVE LETTERS

I ALREADY KNEW THAT TACCHAN WAS SEEING A BUNCH OF OTHER GIRLS
I'VE NEVER SENT HIM ANY LOVE LETTERS
GLARE
YOU MADE UP THE PART ABOUT WRITING LOVE LETTERS, DIDN'T YOU?
DATING ALL OF THEM
SORRY, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHERE YOU EVEN MET TATSUO
OH NO
WHAT HIGH SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
MAKING FUN OF GIRLS YOUR FRIEND DUMPS?
IS THIS LIKE YOUR HOBBY?

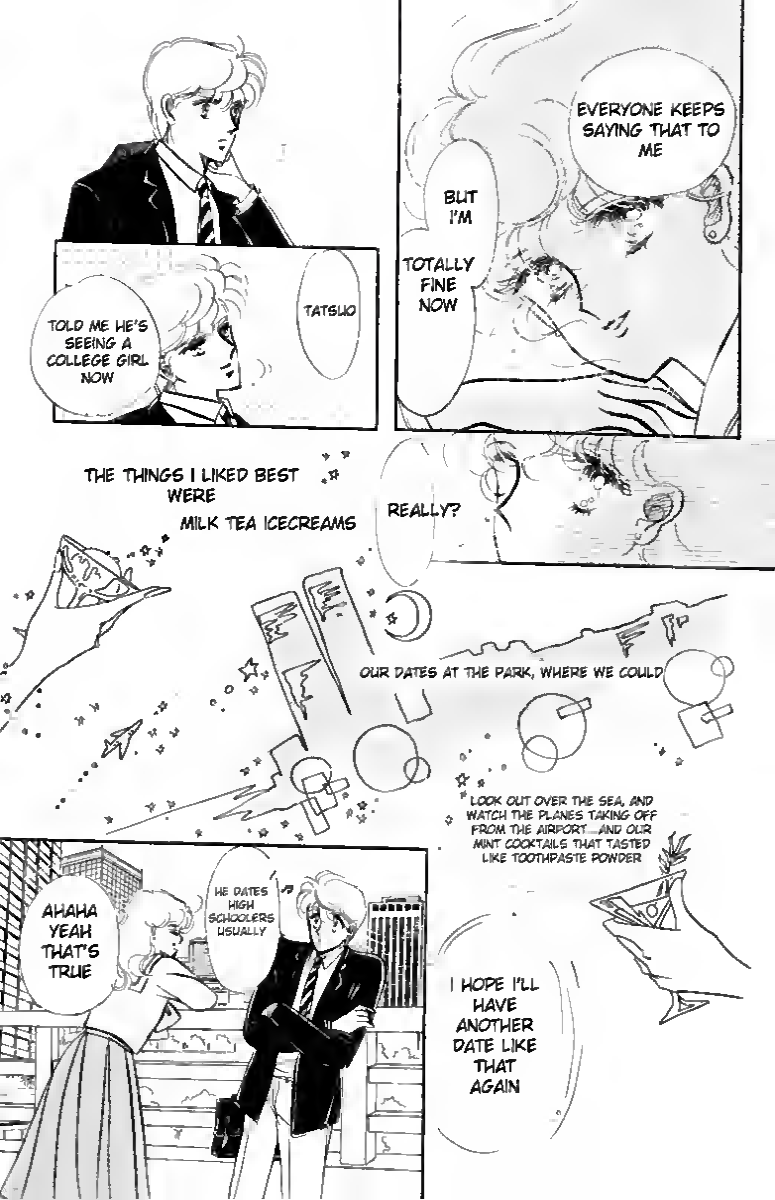
I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU
HE WAS AT MY HIGH SCHOOL'S WOMEN'S YMCA SCHOOL FESTIVAL
I KNEW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
THAT HE WAS SUPERFICIAL AND NOT SERIOUS
SO YOU KNEW THAT IN THE END
TATSUO WOULD BE THE TYPE TO STAND YOU UP AND DUMP YOU
YEAH, I GUESS SO. IT WAS A SIGN WHEN HE STOPPED CALLING ME ON THE PHONE...
DIDN'T YOU TRY CALLING HIM YOURSELF?

SO ALL I EVER DID WAS PLAY A STARING GAME WITH MY TELEPHONE
AND MY TREMBLING VOICE WOULD GIVE AWAY MY NERVOUSNESS, RIGHT?
I COULDN'T CALL HIM. EVERY TIME I TRIED MY HEART WOULD POUND
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
CAN I
KEEP THIS?
Tacchan
BUT IT HAS TACCHAN WRITTEN ON IT
MY NAME IS TACCHAN TOO.
SO SINCE YOU'RE TAKUJI.. YOUR NICKNAME IS TACCHAN?
MY FULL NAME IS KAWAKAMI TAKUJI*

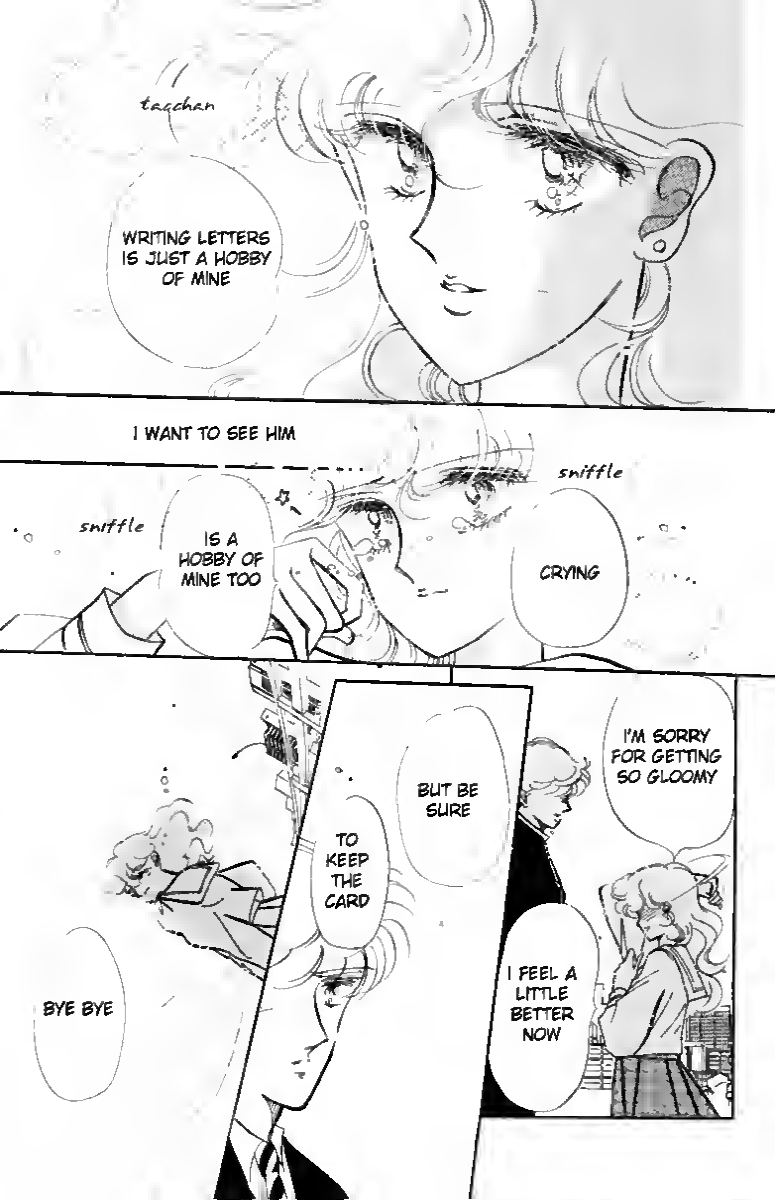
*NOTE: IN JAPANESE, NAMES ENDING IN "JI" OR "O", WHEN GIVEN THE -CHAN SUFFIX, ARE IRREGULAR SO IN THIS CASE, BOTH TAKUJI AND TATSUO WOULD BE CONTRACTED AS TACCHAN

TACCHAN
MORE THAN GETTING LETTERS OR PHONE CALLS
I JUST WANTED
TO SEE YOU
I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH TO THIS GUY
OH NO
SLAM
YURIE ...
LEAVE ME ALONE
Tatchan
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE

YURIE
YOU'RE ALL RED
CHEER UP
THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ON MY MIND
OH, IT'S NOTHING. I'M FINE NOW.
YOU SAID YOU WENT TO Y GIRL'S ACADEMY, RIGHT?
what is he doing here?!
YOU SNUCK UP ON ME
I GUESS THIS IS PARTIALLY MY RESPONSIBILITY
SO PLEASE CHEER UP


EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING THAT TO ME
BUT I'M TOTALLY FINE NOW
TATSUKO
TOLD ME HE'S SEEING A COLLEGE GIRL NOW
REALLY?
THE THINGS I LIKED BEST WERE
MILK TEA ICECREAMS
OUR DATES AT THE PARK, WHERE WE COULD
LOOK OUT OVER THE SEA, AND WATCH THE PLANES TAKING OFF FROM THE AIRPORT...AND OUR MINT COCKTAILS THAT TASTED LIKE TOOTHPASTE POWDER
I HOPE I'LL HAVE ANOTHER DATE LIKE THAT AGAIN
HE DATES HIGH SCHOOLERS USUALLY
AHAHA YEAH THAT'S TRUE

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE DATING
I COULD NEVER BE MYSELF AROUND HIM. I WAS SO NERVOUS, MY HEART WOULD JUST POUND.
IT'S WEIRD. I WONDER WHY..
smile
IT'S STRANGE. WHEN I'M WITH THIS OTHER TACCHAN
I CAN TALK TO HIM NORMALLY
WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
MAYBE I WAS JUST TOO EMBARRASSED TO BE MYSELF BEFORE
DO YOU STILL LIKE HIM?
IS THAT WHY YOU WROTE HIM THAT LETTER THE OTHER DAY?
NO
I DON'T WANT ANOTHER BOYFRIEND


taechan
WRITING LETTERS IS JUST A HOBBY OF MINE
I WANT TO SEE HIM
sniffle
IS A HOBBY OF MINE TOO
sniffle
CRYING
I'M SORRY FOR GETTING SO GLOOMY
I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW
BUT BE SURE
TO KEEP THE CARD
BYE BYE

BYE BYE
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER TODAY
YURIE
HUH? GIGGLE GIGGLE
RIGHT ?
BUT BE HONEST! IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF THE GUY WHO WAS WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE THE GATE YESTERDAY!
REALLY ?
TEE HEE HEE ♡
KAWAKAMI TAKUJI...
THE OTHER TACCHAN
Letter Pad

I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN
TO THE OTHER TACCHAN I CAN BE MYSELF AROUND
THANK YOU
TACCHAN
AND APOLOGIZE FOR SLAPPING HIM
KNOCK KNOCK
HUH
IT'S LIKE MAGIC
SNEAK UP ON YOU AGAIN?
DID I

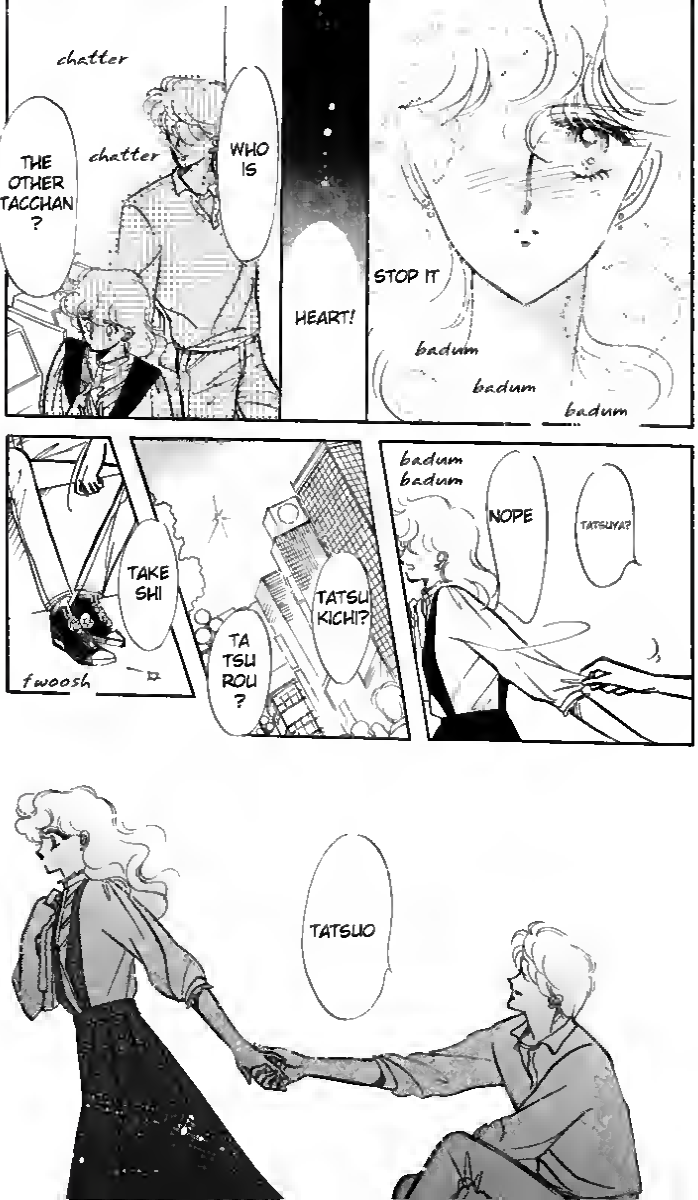
SOME-
HOW I
KNEW
I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
BE
HERE
WHY
WHAT
DOING YOUR
GLOOMY
HOBBY AGAIN?
ACK
DON'T READ
MY LETTER!
fwip
WHEN YOU
WRITE
"TACCHAN"
WHO DO
YOU MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW! GO AWAY!
YOU LIAR
badum
badum
badum
WHEN WE MET
WHY DID YOU GRAB MY
HAND?
I WROTE "TACCHAN"
BUT I NEVER CALLED HIM "TACCHAN" TO HIS FACE.
I ONLY EVER WROTE THAT IN LETTERS

*NOTE: IN JAPAN, THE BASKIN ROBBINS CHAIN IS KNOWN AS "31 FLAVORS"

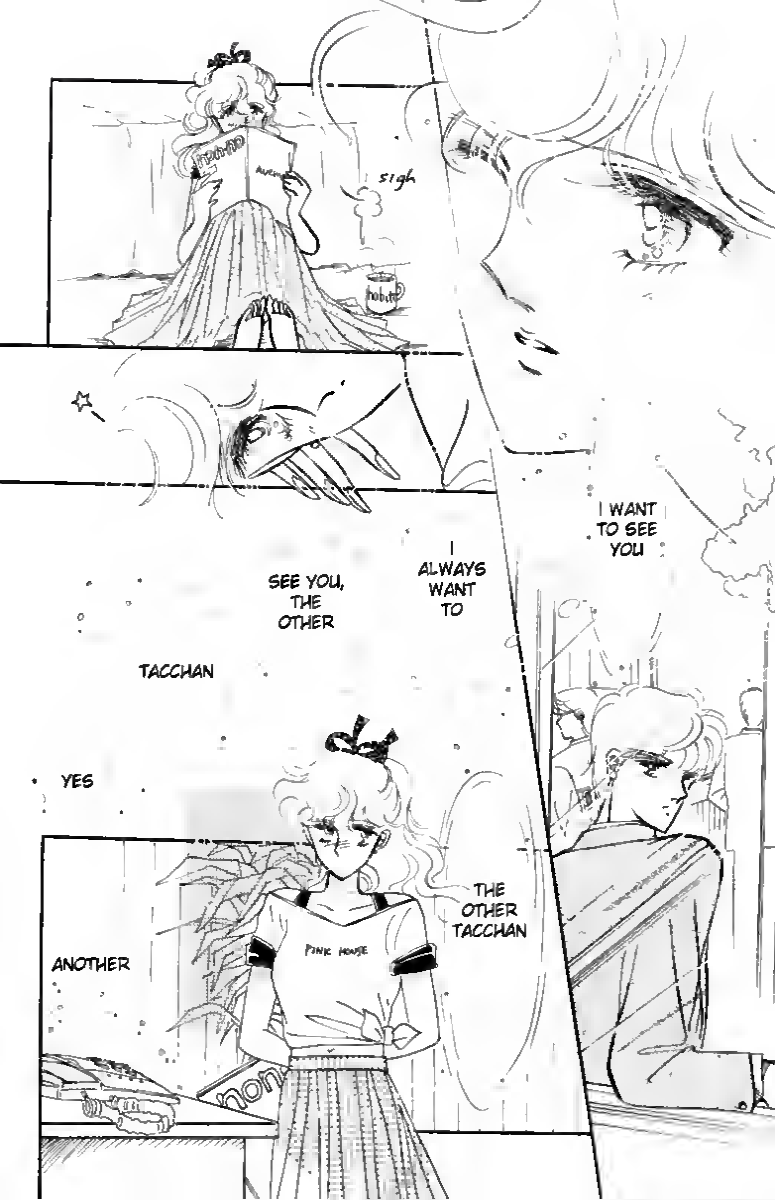
NOTE: IN JAPANESE, THE PHRASE TO SAY "HELLO" WHEN YOU ANSWER THE PHONE IS "MOSHIMOSHI". INSTEAD, THE TACCHANS USE "MOSHAKUSHA" - A SLOPPIER WAY OF SAYING THE SAME THING, LIKE A KID WOULD.

WHAT'S WRONG ?
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO CRY
I'M NOT GOING TO CRY
push
BUT YOU CRY ALL THE TIME
IT'S MY HOBBY
REALLY? THAT AND LETTERS
OHH
..YOU HAVE A LOT OF GLOOMY HOBBIES.
blah
blahblah
YOU DIDN'T SEND THE LETTER YOU WROTE YESTERDAY
OF COURSE NOT
chatter chatter
badum
MEN'S MELODIE


chatter
chatter
THE OTHER TACCHAN ?
WHO IS
HEART!
STOP IT
badum
badum
badum
TAKE SHI
TA TSU ROU ?
TATSU KICHI?
fwoosh
badum badum
NOPE
TATSUYA?
TATSUO

grab
SLAP
YOU ARE CRUEL!
OUCH
AGAIN
chatter
SHE'S RUN AWAY
chatter
AND AGAIN

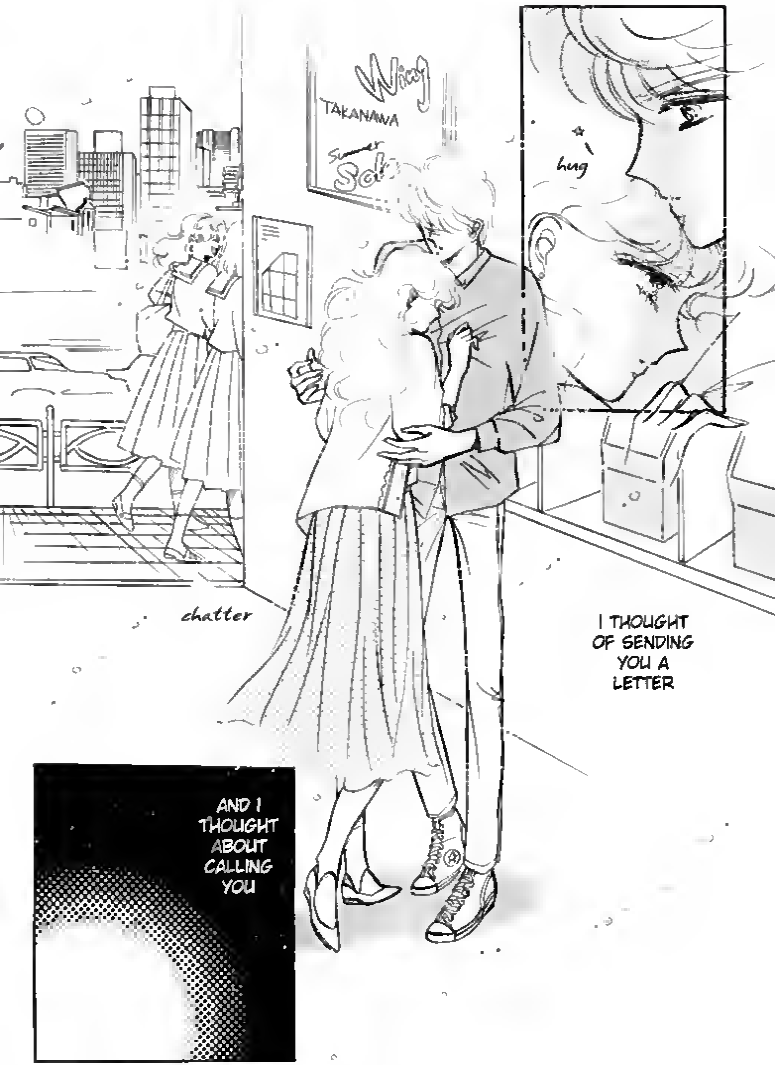
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
HE'S JUST A FRIEND OF TACCHAN'S
TACCHAN
YOU WERE ON A DATE NEAR THE WING DEPARTMENT STORE, RIGHT? WHAT IS WITH THE GUY WHO WAS HER THE OTHER DAY?
I SAW YOU YURIE!
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT
OH COME ON
sob
YURIE
YOU AREN'T WITH TATSUO ANYMORE. WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A BIG FUSS ABOUT IT?


sigh
I WANT TO SEE YOU
I ALWAYS WANT TO SEE YOU, THE OTHER TACCHAN
YES
ANOTHER
THE OTHER TACCHAN
PINK HOUSE

ring
ring ring
courtjee
ring ring
badum
STARING GAME WITH THE PHONE
click
HEWWOW?
HELLO
PINK HOUSE
KNOW WHO IT WAS?
HOW DID YOU

I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE ASKED FOR IT, DOES IT?

LET ME GUESS
chatter
I CAN HEAR HIM
chatter
RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE CRYING
sniffle sniffle
WASN'T THAT A GOOD USE FOR THE CARD?
PINK HOUR



ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED = NAKAYOSHI DELUXE
SEPTEMBER 1986

★★THE END★★

Love Call

Oh, this is so embarrassing. This is my debut world! I can't believe it. I made this 10 years ago in the late 1980s! When I was a senior in high school I fell in a totally innocent but dedicated long distance love affair with a classmate of mine from junior high who went to another school called "Tacchan." But me and him were both super shy and so we never met up too often and only spoke to each other every once in a while. Whenever we went to the other one's school festivals our hearts were pounding, and we made it a point to attend in secret. I wrote a lot of letters to Tacchan during my classes that I never ended up sending. They got soaked in the rain on my way home. (They were too embarrassing to send.) I wonder how Tacchan is doing now. Is he well? (It seems that he and my other friend Yoda really did end up together.) Tacchan is a chapter of my youth from junior high and high school. (I wonder why I was dumped? I can't even remember now!)

Anyway I wrote this story in my second year of college but I wanted to write about my love story in places like Shinagawa Wing, where I used to hang out with my friends. (I still use that spot) and the municipal central library. I used to have milk tea ice cream a lot back then! (At Chez Louis in Hiroo.) And I used to eat toothpaste powder cocktails and grasshoppers! I drank all the cocktails I could in the bar using my mom's credit card. They're really sweet and tasty and I still adore them now. But...well my debut with this story was a success. Im sorry for having such a weird debut! It's strange because my comics have never really been "Nakayoshi Style" comics. They weren't back then and they aren't really their style now either. So I apologize!

Here's something else. What really surprised me when Sailor Moon became popular was that my nerd friends on a service called "Paso—Tsuu*" could find my original debut works at the National Diet Library! I was blown away...but it's true. At the National Diet Library in Tokyo, you can read all of the old issues of Nakayoshi (even their special editions too!) Thank you fans for going so far out of your way to read my debut work! It shocked me. I tried to search all over Kanda but the issues aren't on sale anywhere. I tried to find copies of the now out—of—print "Hay Fever" book by Sanno, but no luck. So I read that at the National Diet Library now too, as my last resort. (Im still looking for that book. Does anyone have a copy? *sniffle*)

*NOTE: PASO TSUU WAS AN ONLINE SERVICE, SIMILAR TO BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS FROM THE EARLY 1990S INTERNET.

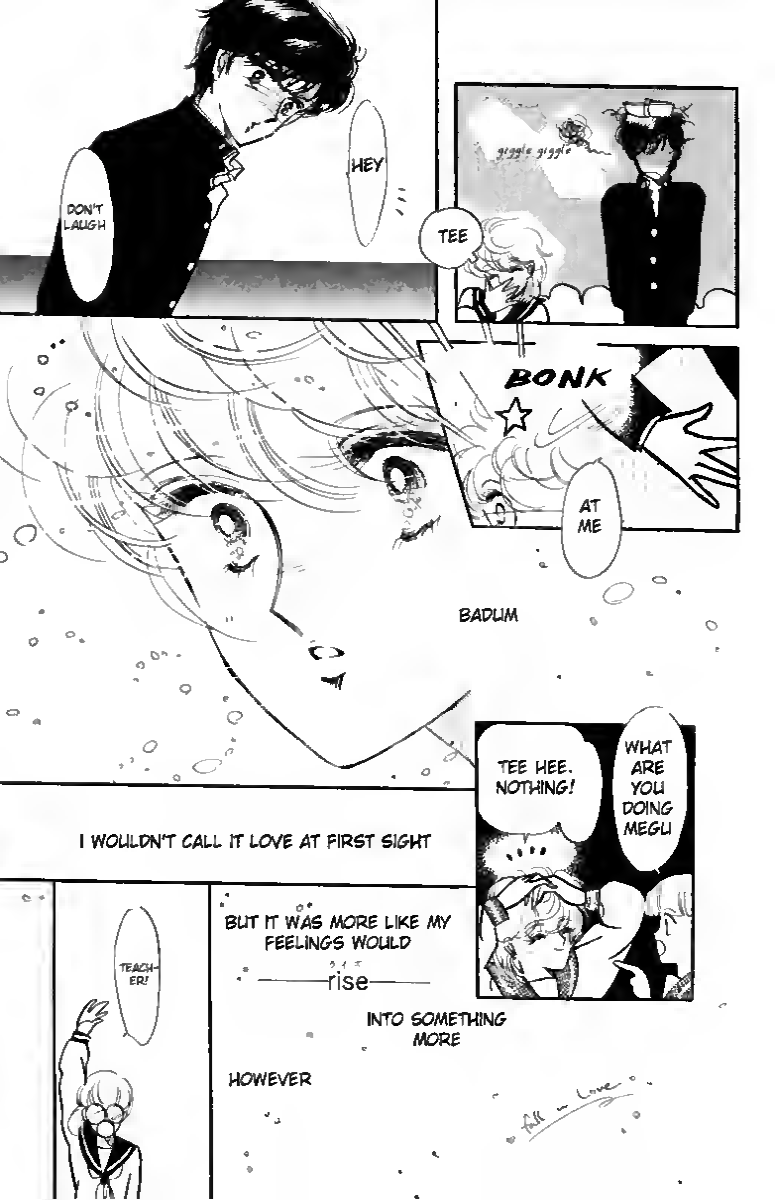
夢(ゆめ)じゃないのね

This Isn't A Dream, Is It?

I LOVE YOU
YES
YOU CAN
KISS ME
blink

WHAT A WEIRD AND WONDERFUL DREAM
KISS ME
TELLING SOMEONE
beep
grab
ACK
beep beep
THE GUY IN THE DREAM IS SAEGUSA TAKASHI
IN APRIL, I STARTED IN A NEW CLASS FOR SENIOR YEAR
HE AND I WERE PARTNERS IN CLASS FOR JUST A SINGLE DAY
HEY
ACK
TILT
smile
I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SEAT IN THE FRONT ROW
HELLO
SWIVEL

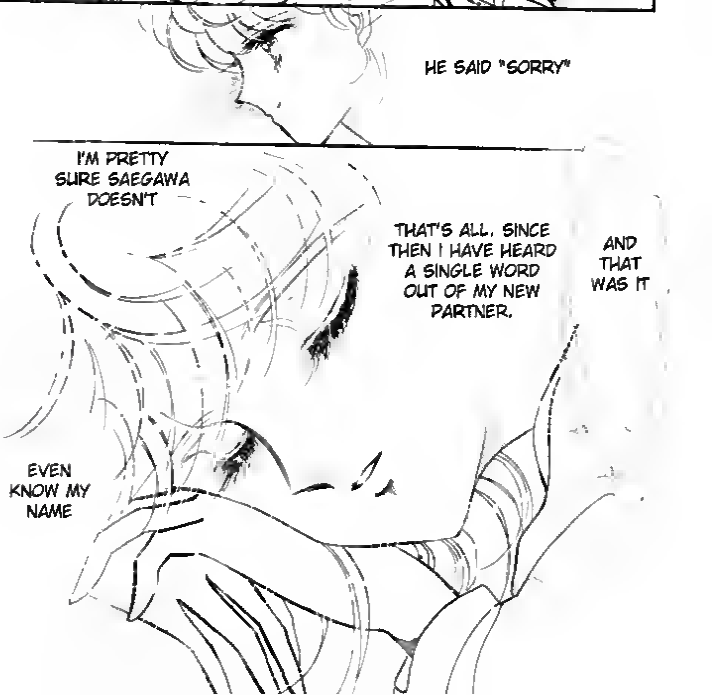
LET ME SEE YOUR TEXTBOOK
MY PARTNER WAS SAEGUSA
scribble
scribble
AN ELECTRONIC CAR
HE JUST KEPT DOODLING INSTEAD OF TAKING NOTES
sigh
TO MAKE THINGS WORSE
WHAT A WEIRD GUY, FORGETTING HIS BOOKS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS
I THINK I'LL PUT THIS HERE
scribble scribble
HEY!
WHERE IS YOUR TEXTBOOK?!
I FORGOT IT
BONK
OW
smile
IT'S A MODEL M CAR


DON'T LAUGH
HEY
giggle giggle
TEE
BONK
AT ME
BADUM
TEE HEE. NOTHING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING MEGU
I WOULDN'T CALL IT LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
BUT IT WAS MORE LIKE MY FEELINGS WOULD
rise
INTO SOMETHING MORE
HOWEVER
TEACHER!
fall in Love

THAT DAY, MY SEAT WAS REASSIGNED
YES
ASHIZAWA MEGUMI
OH, REALLY? HEY YOU IN THE FRONT, GO AHEAD AND MOVE
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM THE BACK ROW. CAN YOU PLEASE CHANGE MY SEAT?
STARE
HEY
GLANCE
OH
TURN TO PAGE 25
MY NEW PARTNER WAS A RATHER GLOOMY AND PALE GUY WHO LOOKED REALLY FRAIL
DID SAEGAWA FORGET HIS BOOK AGAIN?
IF YOU NEED A BOOK...
.....

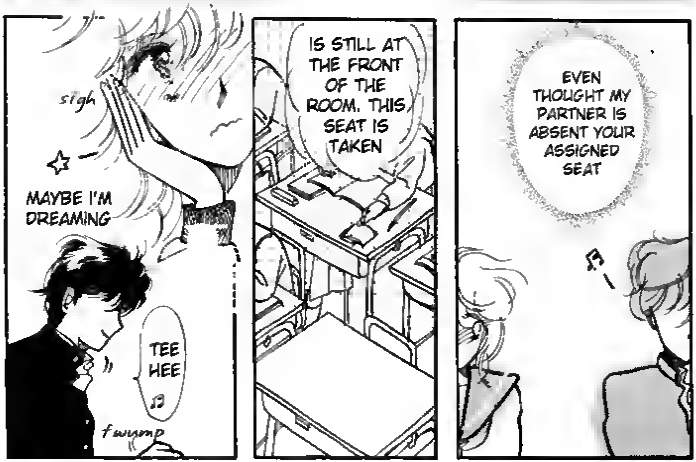
I WONDER IF HIS NEW PARTNER WILL SHARE HER BOOK WITH HIM
MEGU
TAKA, YOUR AIM IS TERRIBLE. TRY AGAIN!
SPLAT
swoosh
chatter
chatter
OKAY
ERASE THE BLACKBOARD
HUH
HEY MEGU!
SPLAT
OH
IT'S OK
badum
TAKA!
turn
SAGAWA
SORRY

WELL LET'S SEE
OH! TODAY SAEGAWA TALKED TO ME
I TRIED TO WARN YOU
5:3?
TODAY SAEGAWA TALKED TO ME
my bad
scribble


HE SAID "SORRY"
I'M PRETTY SURE SAEGAWA DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW MY NAME
THAT'S ALL. SINCE THEN I HAVE HEARD A SINGLE WORD OUT OF MY NEW PARTNER.
AND THAT WAS IT

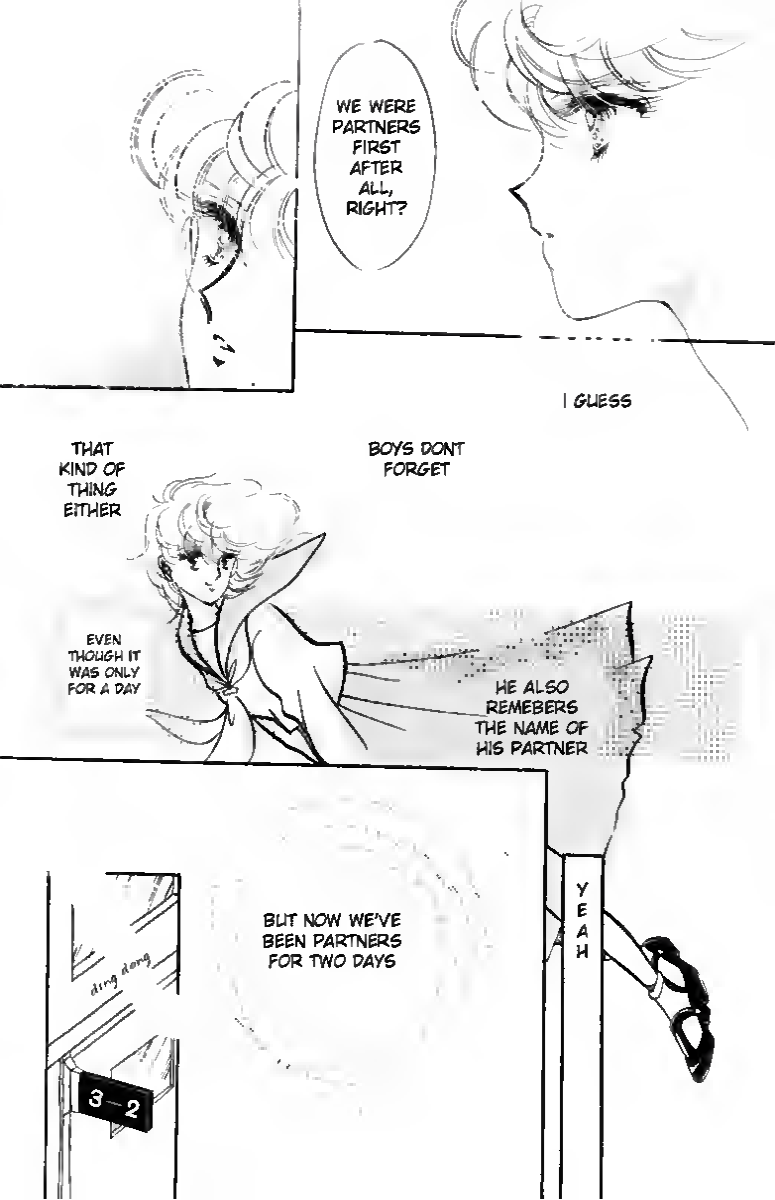
I COULD NEVER CONFESS MY TRUE FEELINGS TO HIM, THE WAY I SO EASILY DO IN MY DREAMS
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNIN- MEGU
ding dong
YOUR PARTNER IS ABSENT TODAY, SO PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT IN THE ATTENDANCE REPORT
OK
ding dong
haha
WHAT ?
bump
haha
?
SHE SAID MY PARTNER WAS ABSENT
eeek
OH
HEY

WHY IS SAEGUCHI SITTING NEXT TO ME AGAIN?


sigh
MAYBE I'M DREAMING
TEE HEE
fwump
IS STILL AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. THIS SEAT IS TAKEN
EVEN THOUGH MY PARTNER IS ABSENT YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT

shock
A GAME WATCH?!
GAME & WATCH
WELL I WANTED TO SIT IN THE BACK TODAY SO I COULD PLAY THIS
silence
HEY YOU SHOULD STOP!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE!
IT'S FINE
beep
beep
THAT'S MAKING NOISE!
beep
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TALKING WITH SAEGUCHI
IT FEELS SURREAL
beep
beep
I SAID IT'S FINE!
B-BUT
WE'RE IN THE FAR BACK
(HUH?
YOU IN THE VERY BACK!!
MAY 17TH, FRIDAY
SATURDAY
beep
stare stare
WE WON'T GET CAUGHT
YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP
I'LL BE SCARED IF THE TEACHER FINDS OUT!
beep beep

peek
NOW WE CAN SPEAK OPENLY
beep
smile
WE WERE FORCED TO STAND IN THE HALL TOGETHER
giggle
WAH HAHA HA
THANKS TO YOU, ASHIZAWA
WHAT?
badum
ASHI-ZAWA
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE NAMES OF AL THE BOYS IN THE CLASS YET, BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW MY NAME


WE WERE PARTNERS FIRST AFTER ALL, RIGHT?
I GUESS
THAT KIND OF THING EITHER
BOYS DONT FORGET
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ONLY FOR A DAY
HE ALSO REMEBERS THE NAME OF HIS PARTNER
YEAH
BUT NOW WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS FOR TWO DAYS
ding dong
3-2

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE
I WISH THIS WOULD GO ON FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR
TO BE SAEGAWA'S PARTNER AGAIN
DO YOU SEE HIS FACE?
chatter
chatter
OHH, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT CARS
HUH?
ARCEES*?
HEY ASHIZAWA, DO YOU LIKE RC'S?
THAT'S RARE FOR A GIRL
chatter
chatter
REALLY?
I WONDER IF THEY SAW ME STARING AT SAEGUCHI

*NOTE: RC STANDS FOR REMOTE-CONTROL CAR. IN JAPANESE THEY USE THE ENGLISH WORD, WHICH MEGU DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.

HEY TAKA, DID YOU SEE THAT ASHIZAWA WAS STARING AT YOU THE WHOLE TIME?
RC?
IT'S FINE
ARE YOU SURE?
RC MAGAZINE JAPAN
UM
HMM
flip
RC MAGAZINE
electronics

OOPS, SORRY!
BANG
POW
HEY IT'S ASHIZAWA AGAIN
HEY SAEGAWA
AFTER TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THAT RC MAGAZINE, I'M STUCK IN A DAZE
OW
SMIRK
I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING. IS YOUR RC A PROPO 2 CHANNEL OR 4 CHANNEL?
DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE SAID "HEY ASHIZAWA"
TEE HEE
OH

OH
UMM
ASHIZAWA, YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS STUFF
HEY TAKA, I BET SINCE YOU TOLD HER YOU WERE INTO THOSE CARS SHE SPENT ALL DAY RESEARCHING THEM. YOU'RE SUCH A LADIES MAN
I CAN'T TELL HIM HE'S NOT BORN YET!
HE MUST BE IN THE RACES THEN, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE A BROTHER? HOW OLD IS HE?
HE'S IN 5TH GRADE
MY LITTLE BROTHER IS INTO IT TOO
YEAH. I'LL BE AT THE NEXT RACE
RACES?
ACK
5.
Chiho Saito

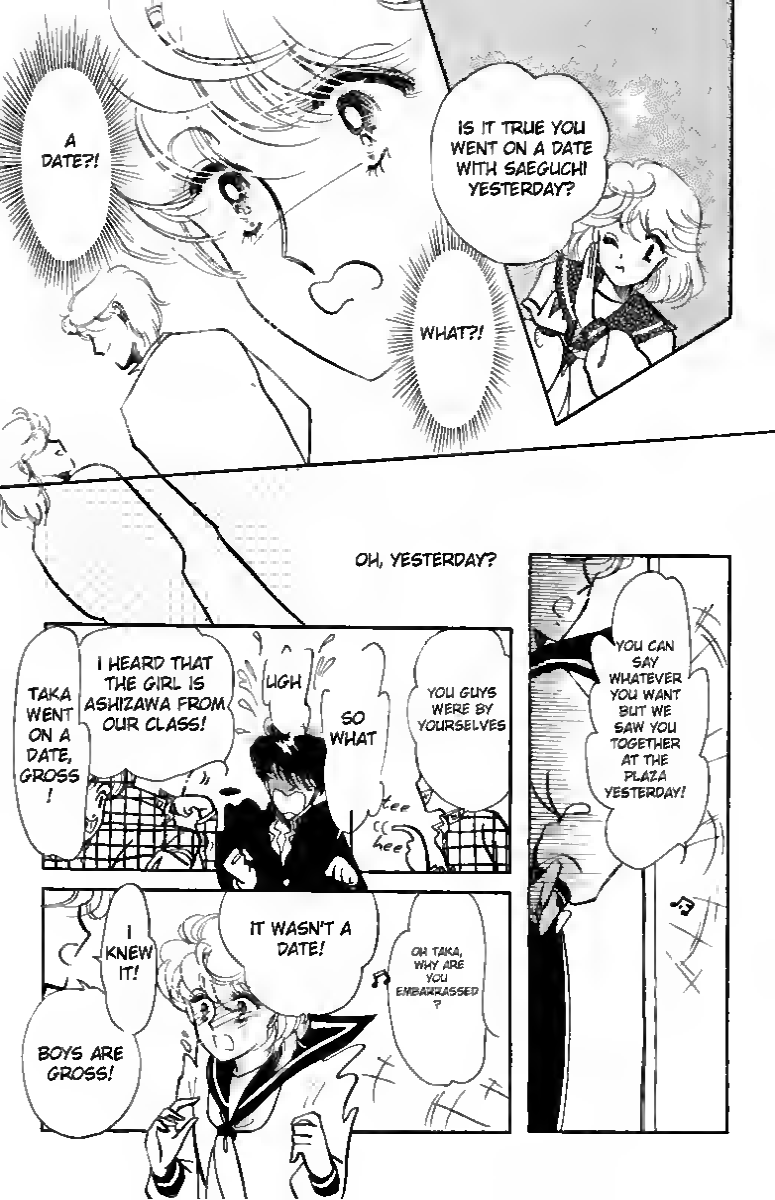
I FINALLY FOUND IT
'85 grand prix
I WONDER IF SAEGUCHI IS HERE?
I FOUND OUT WHERE THE RACE WOULD BE HELD
HEY
36
THERE HE IS!
HEY
WOULD YOU
AND NOW LET'S BEGIN THE AWARDS CEREMOINY
chatter
chatter
I WAS JUST IN THE NEIGH-BORHOOD
YOU REALLY CAME

TAKA
COMING
TAKA
HOLD THIS
WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
THANKS FOR HOLDING MY CAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
IT'S PRETTY MUCH OVER NOW
IT'S IS ALMOST LIKE A DATE
DID HE NOTICE?
HEY, THAT'S TAKA! AND HE'S WITH A GIRL!
HE'S AT THE SPRING ATHLETIC MEET
WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER?

BUT I'M ABLE TO TALK TO HIM WITHOUT MY HEART POUNDING AT ALL
IT'S SO STRANGE. I'M ALONE WITH MY PARTNER FOR A SINGLE DAY
THAT WHENEVER I'M NEAR HIM AT SCHOOL, MY HEART IS POUNDING A MILE A MINUTE
TODAY I'M JUST ABLE TO BE MYSELF
IT'S ALMOST LIKE
A DREAM
IS THIS A DREAM?

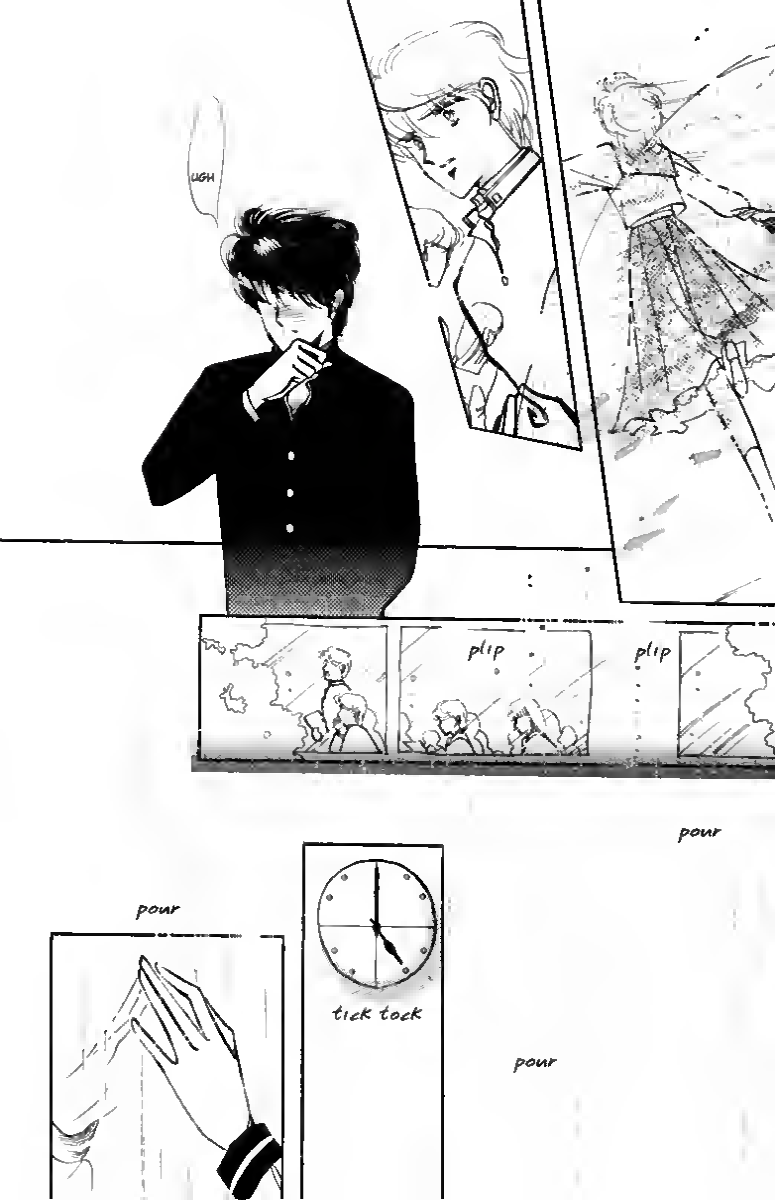
IF I WAKE UP, WILL THIS ALL DISAPPEAR?
gasp
MAYBE THIS IS A DREAM
beep
beep
MAYBE IT WAS A DREAM. THE NEXT DAY
sigh
IT'S WEIRD. I JUST FEEL SO UNEASY
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!

I HAD A LOT OF FUN YESTERDAY THOUGH
giggle
OHH I HATE MONDAYS. SCHOOL AGAIN
DID YOU DO ANYTHING MEGU?
HEY WHY ARE YOU TURNING ALL RED?
NO REASON
THANKS FOR HOLDING MY HAT
whoosh
3—2
wahh hahahah
3—2
IS THAT SAEGUCHI'S VOICE?
3—2
hey wow
OH MEGU!
3—2
scream scream
WHO'S SHOUTING LIKE THAT?
gasp
SO WHAT ?!


A DATE?!
IS IT TRUE YOU WENT ON A DATE WITH SAEGUCHI YESTERDAY?
WHAT?!
OH, YESTERDAY?
YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT BUT WE SAW YOU TOGETHER AT THE PLAZA YESTERDAY!
TAKA WENT ON A DATE, GROSS!
I HEARD THAT THE GIRL IS ASHIZAWA FROM OUR CLASS!
UGH
SO WHAT
YOU GUYS WERE BY YOURSELVES
hee hee
I KNEW IT!
IT WASN'T A DATE!
OH TAKA, WHY ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?
BOYS ARE GROSS!

MEGU, YOU AND SAEGAWA HAVE ONLY TALKED A LITLE, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT MEGU. AND YOU ONLY WERE TALKING TO SAEGAWA BECAUSE HE WAS YOUR PARTNER THE OTHER DAY
YEAH, YOU GUYS HAD TO STAND TOGETHER IN THE HALL
BOYS ALWAYS WANT TO KEEP CLOSE AFTER THAT KIND OF STUFFF
EVEN SAEGAWA IS LIKE THAT
YOU SHOULD JUST LET HIM KNOW IT WASN'T A DATE
RIGHT MEGU ?
MEGU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANY OF THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS THAT WELL YET, GOOD JOB TAKA
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT

WE ONLY WENT TO THE RACES TOGETHER
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!
beep beep
WE WERE ONLY PARTNERS FOR TWO DAYS
WHAT WOULD I WANT TO DO THAT WITH HER FOR!
M-MEGU?!
!
LET GO OF ME
dash
ASHI-ZAWA!
LET


ugh
plip
plip
pour
pour
tick tock
pour

I WONDER IF SOMEONE IS CRYING SOMEWHERE
RAINY DAYS ARE ALWAYS A LITTLE LONELY
IS THAT SAEGUCHI?
I BET HE FORGOT HIS UMBRELLA
HE HASN'T GONE HOME YET

WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO THAT WITH HER?
.....
TAKA IS A HIPPO!
MAY 27TH (MONDAY) TOMOMI AND TAMAKI ON CHORES)
pour
HE'S GONE
smile

BUT IT'S TRUE. SINCE WE'RE JUST ORDINARY PARTNERS, OF COURSE THAT'S HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME
pour
WHAT WOULD I WANT
THERE'S NO REASON TO FEEL LONELY ABOUT THAT
ME
KISS
KISS ME
WHENEVER
I DREAM, I WANT YOU TO SAY YOU LIKE ME BACK
UNREQUITED LOVE HURTS SO MUCH

I WANT YOU TO WANT TO KISS ME

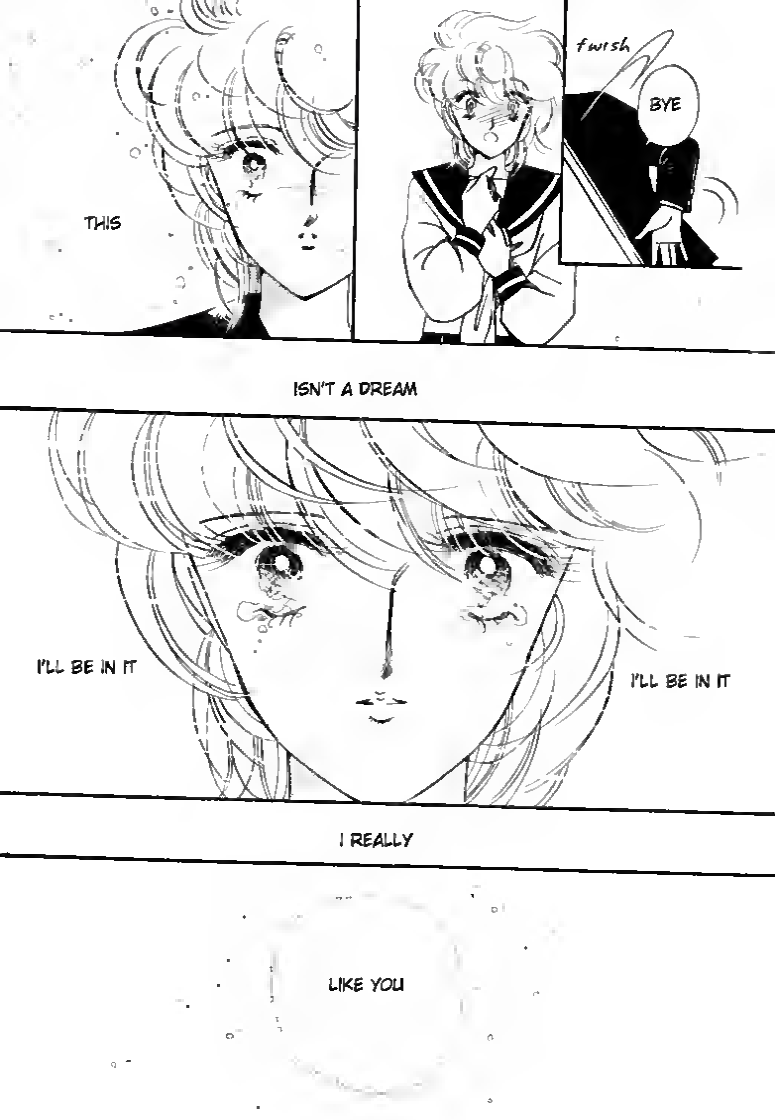
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED = NAKAYOSHI DELUXE NOVEMBER 1985

I WAS WATCHING THE RAIN
PLAYING AROUND
AND YOU ?
badum
IT'S REALLY
COMING DOWN
YEAH
pour
pour

NOW WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS THREE TIMES
badum
badum
badum
twish
badum
I'M GOING HOME
ASHI-ZAWA
.....
rub

turn
I DIDN'T SIT NEXT TO YOU TO PLAY A GAME
THAT TIME
REMEBER THAT TIME WE HAD TO GO STAND IN THE HALL TOGETHER
BUT ACTUALLY BECAUSE
HEY, SAEGUCHI !
BYE
MIND
NEVER

I'LL BE OKAY
I'LL BE ON MY BIKE
I HAVE AN UMBRELLA YOU CAN BORROW.
SEE YA
THEY'RE HAVING ANOTHER RACE
WILL YOU COME WATCH ?
I'LL BE
IN IT


THIS
twish
BYE
ISN'T A DREAM
I'LL BE IN IT
I'LL BE IN IT
I REALLY
LIKE YOU

I REALLY DO
BUT THAT THE TRUTH WAS
blush
THAT YOU WEREN'T SITTING NEXT TO ME TO PLAY A GAME
HUH?
HEY, WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY THE OTHER DAY?

SOMEDAY... SOMEHOW... MAYBE WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN, ON THE RACEWAY

★★THE END★★

This Isn't a Dream, Right?

Oh no! Dont look dont look! I wrote this when I was 18 years old (a senior in high school). This work was published before my official debut and I won a silver medal for it from the Nakayoshi comics school. My teacher from Nakayoshi Deluxe lost my original manuscript for this and so this was published from a copy. I was shocked! I was living in a college dorm at the time, and I found out I was being published back then. I have such great memories of receiving my first 50 fan letters and being so touched by them!

For my debut work I used my real name. Tacchan will forever be my model for all the adolescent boy characters I write about. He's the boy who was my partner when I entered middle school. He used to let me borrow his boys comics like Cyborg 009, Susume!! Pirate, Kibun wa Groovy comics about bikes, and then he introduced me to the works of Adachi Mitsuru and Kagami Akira. I even got interested in anime thanks to Tacchan!

He was also interested in remote control cars, so I once bought an RC magazine for him. I remember going to the RC races in Tamiya at Tokai University Kofu High School, a 10 minute walk from my grandmother's house. I tried to sneak there. (Even though I got caught a lot.) Oh, this makes me feel so sentimental. We didn't even hold hands. (Well, maybe we did sometimes.) Even though our actual relationship was really innocent. I used to think dirty thoughts like, "I wish he would kiss me!" That's awful! Tee hee. On the bottom of the cover piece are lyrics from the song "Waiting for a Girl Like You" by Foreigner. That was on a mix tape Tacchan gave me. I loved that song.

Well, this is it for my collection of one-shot comics. Thank you so much for reading it. When I look back at my original works I want to draw something like this again. But right now as of April 1997 I seem to be permanently on vacation to hot springs, go to cherry blossom viewings and stuff like that. (I feel like an old man!) Last week I went to a party held by the designer Anna Sui. She and I swapped addresses. This year I haven't worn any dresses that weren't designed by Anna. I also bought a bunch of antique lamps because I had thought I was going to move, and now my house is filled with lights. But I don't think I'll be moving for a long time, maybe sometime in the distant future. Yup. And I've also enrolled in a sports club! I even go to the pool! I also bought a new car with my old one as a trade-in. haha. So that's all that I've been up to.

Kana-P was in charge of staff working on the restoration for this compilation. Thank you so much! While working on this book, the Lumi hostage crisis was resolved. I was so worried. I'm relieved it's all over. That being said, everyone on staff was really addicted to the gay drama Saruganseki — we couldn't help but laugh during the crisis!

Thanks again for reading all the way to the end. If you ever want to send me your thoughts please do. Let's see each other again somewhere soon. Until next time!

1997 4 25 Naoko Takeuchi